AFC VS. NFC FOR THE NFL CHAMPIONSHIP AND THE VINCE LOMBARDI TROPHY

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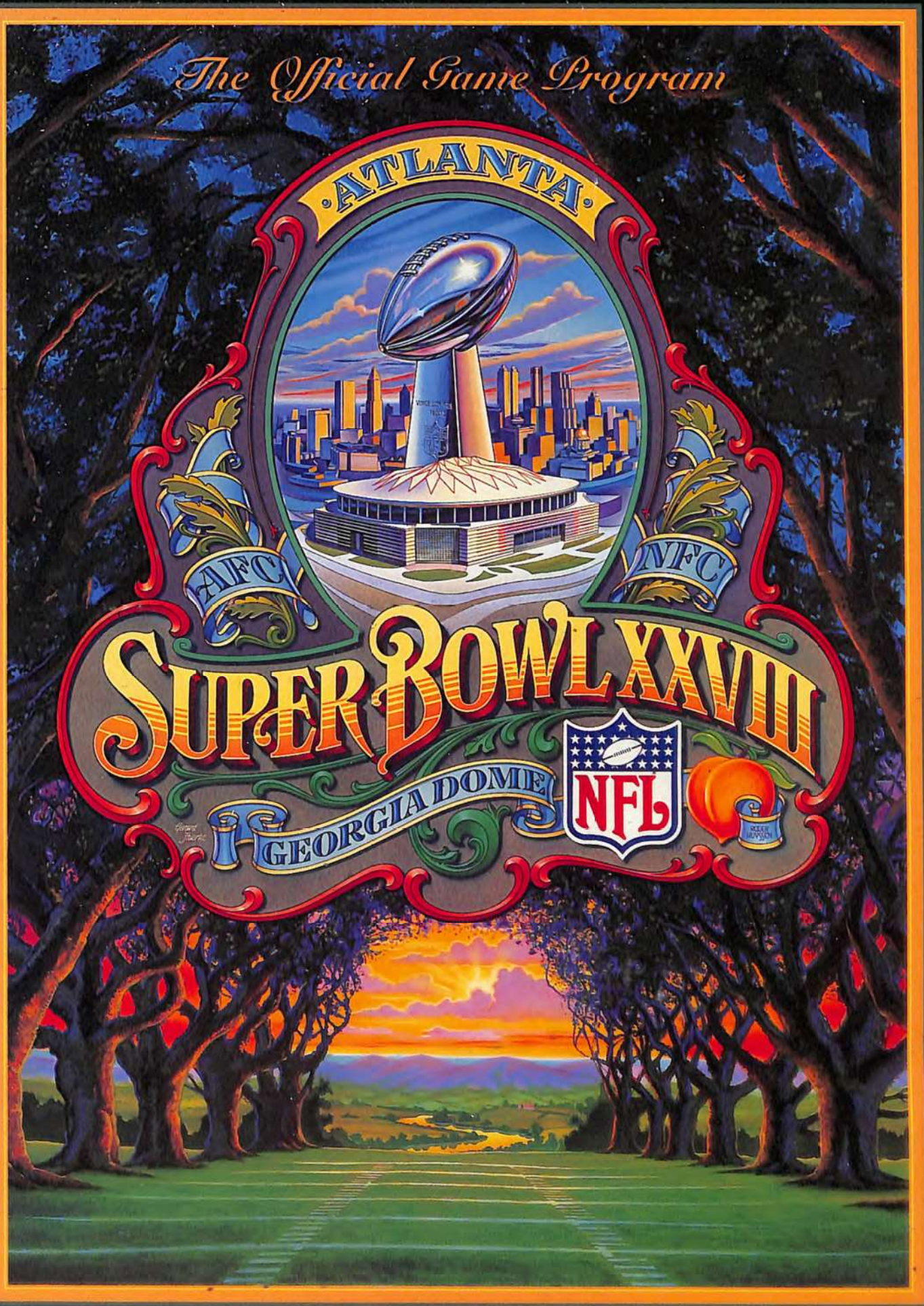

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- Every 1994 Jaguar XJS comes with dual air bags,* ABS brakes, remote entry and theft-

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The happenings, achievements, undertakings, and festivities that make the Super Bowl an event as much as a football game.
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Super Bowl Then

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Super Bowl Spotlight

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Scouting Reports

The most insightful analyses of the AFC and NFC representatives you can get without hiding in a locker during a strategy meeting.
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Note: All of the illustrated flowers appearing in this magazine are native to the American South.

1993 Replay

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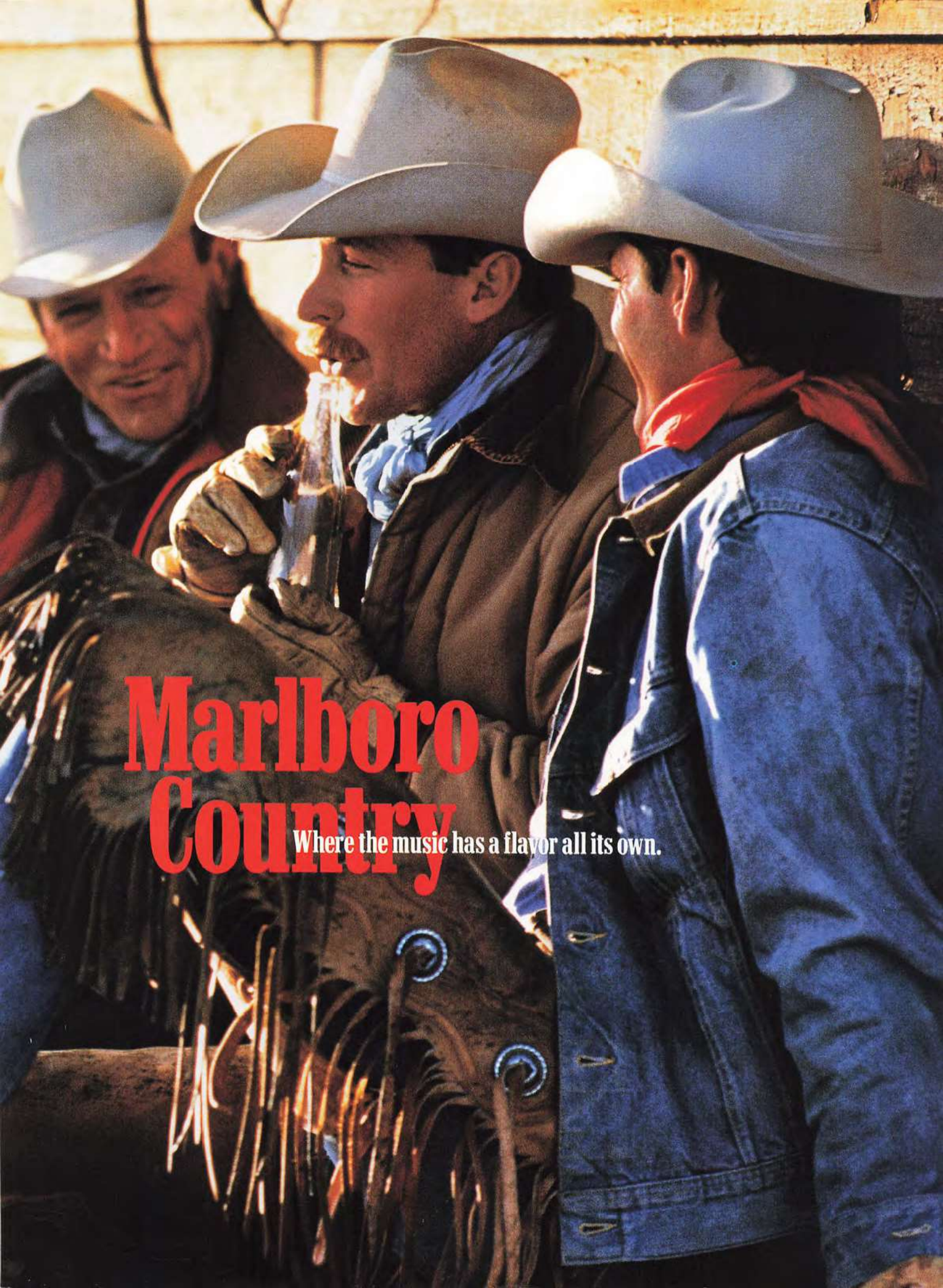
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HOME-GROWN PREGAME SHOW

Today's pregame show saluting great Georgia music-makers is hosted by Gladys Knight, a great music-maker herself. Appearing on the Georgia Dome screens via videotape, Knight will introduce a bonanza of big-name local talent, including country rockers the Georgia Satellites, Charlie Daniels, and rap duo Kris Kross. Also performing will be the electrifying Morehouse College Band playing a medley of hits by R&B legend James Brown, the "Godfather of Soul."

Randee St. Nicholas

Gladys Knight

Knight's career began at age 4 when she made her singing debut at Atlanta's Mt. Mariah Baptist Church. After winning the grand prize on the "Ted Mack Amateur Hour" at age 7, she was encouraged by her mother, Elizabeth Knight, to form a singing group. Thus, the Pips were formed.

Kris Kross

By 1961, Knight and the group had their first Top-10 record, "Every Beat of My Heart." Knight launched her solo career in 1980 and has been the recipient of four Grammy Awards, a People's Choice Award, the NAACP's Black Image Award, and *Ebony* Magazine's Black Achievement Award. She also has accumulated acting credits on stage and television.

Natalie Cole, a nine-time Grammy-winning performer, will sing the National Anthem. Cole has been getting rave reviews for "Take a Look," her second album for Elektra Entertainment. Her first Elektra album, "Unforgettable, With Love," a tribute to the musical legacy of her father, Nat (King) Cole, sold more than 8 million copies and won seven Grammy Awards, including Record of the Year, Album of the Year, and Song of the Year. Cole also has won an NAACP Image Award, and has devoted time and energy to many worthy causes, including the Children's Diabetes Foundation, the Rainforest Foundation, the American Red Cross, and AIDS Project Los Angeles.

Stephen Damelian

Natalie Cole

The pregame show was produced and directed by Bob Best, his ninth such Super Bowl show. The associate producer was Ed Jones. Choreography was by Lesslee Fitzmorris of American All-Stars.

FOR THE HEARING DISABLED

Telex Communications, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is providing an Assitive Listening system for fans with hearing disabilities attending Super Bowl XXVIII. This system will allow hearing impaired fans to hear all announcements made over the Georgia Dome public address system. Personal receivers for fans requiring the system are available at special booths manned by Telex Communications personnel.

A Hero Returns

Joe Namath revisits the Super Bowl, 25 years after being named the most valuable player of Super Bowl III. Namath, who quarterbacked the New York Jets to a stunning 16-7 upset victory over the Baltimore Colts in January, 1969, will be the honorary coin tosser for today's game. The Hall of Fame member is profiled in a special feature beginning on page 126.

Darryl Norenberg

HOT INFO

Kickoff Time: 6 P.M.

Teams: AFC Champion vs. NFC Champion for the National Football League Championship and the Vince Lombardi Trophy. The AFC Champion will be the home team and will have the choice of wearing white or colored jerseys.

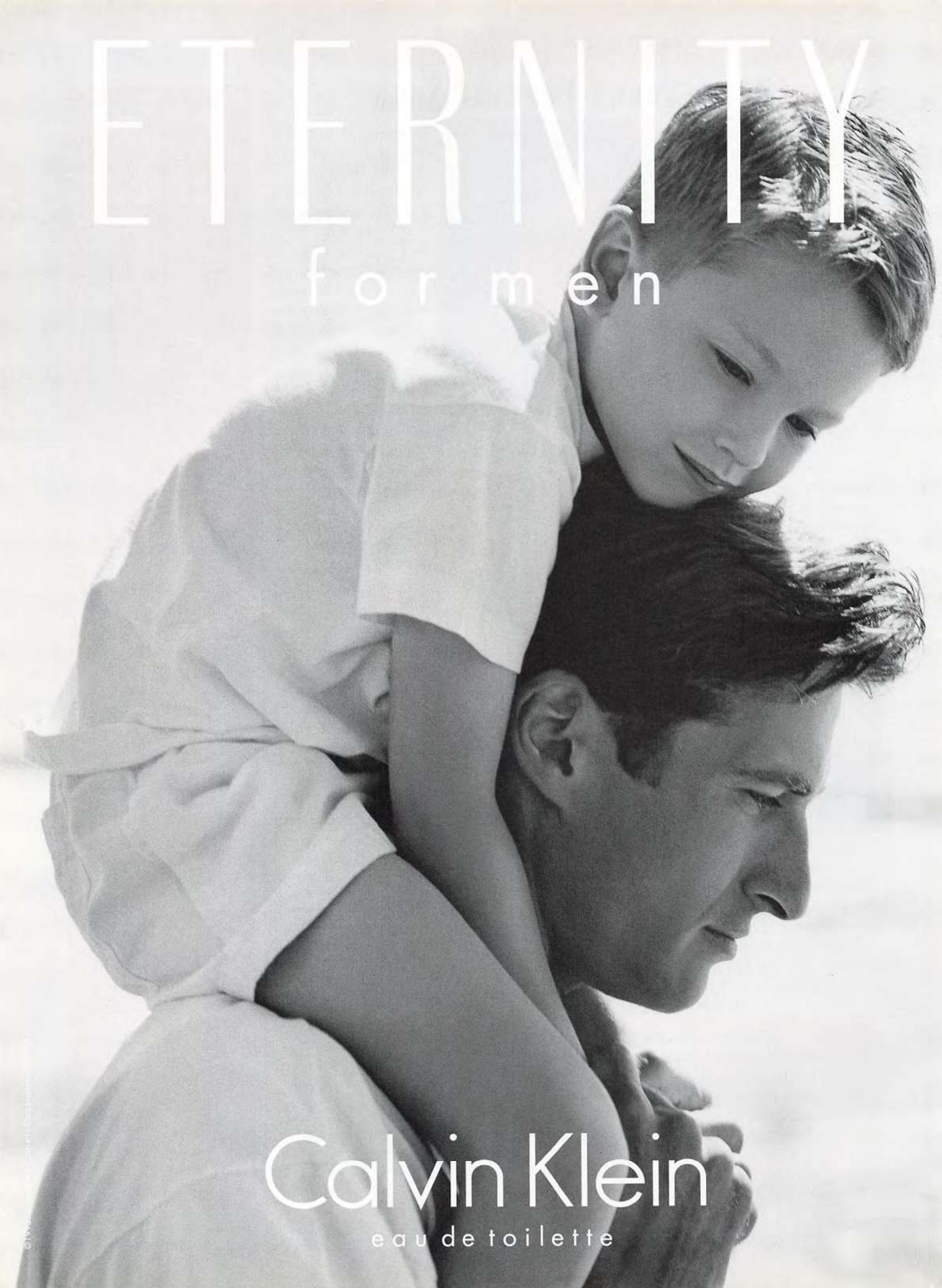
Players' Shares: Each member of the winning team receives $38,000; each member of the losing team receives $23,500—approximately $4 million for the personnel of the competing clubs.

Overtime: If the score of Super Bowl XXVIII is tied at the end of the regulation 60 minutes, the game will continue into sudden-death overtime. The first team to score—by touchdown, field goal, or safety—will win. The Super Bowl will continue by 15-minute periods, with two-minute intermissions, until there is a winner.

Television Coverage: NBC will begin its pregame show at 4 P.M. (EST). The game telecast begins at 6 P.M.

Radio Coverage: CBS Radio's English- and Spanish-language broadcasts will begin at 5:45 P.M. (EST).

Medical Emergencies: There are two first-aid stations in the Georgia Dome. They are located on the upper level concourse at aisle 322 and on the lower level concourse at aisle 138, adjacent to Gate D. Should you, or anyone near you, require medical assistance, please contact a security person or an usher. If possible, please provide the location of the patron and nature of the problem.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ROCKIN' COUNTRY SUNDAY

Country music superstars Clint Black, Tanya Tucker, Travis Tritt, and Wynonna Judd headline today's Wavy Lay's Super Bowl Halftime Show, "Rockin' Country Sunday." And, as if that weren't enough country firepower, a very special guest will make the finale one of the most memorable ever.

Black kicks off the show with "Tuckered Out," a song from his latest RCA album, "No Time to Kill," that weaves references to 37 different country acts into its humorous lyrics. During the months prior to the album's release, Black became the only musical performer to visit U.S. troops in Somalia. Black and halftime show co-star Wynonna were paired for a blockbuster concert tour in 1993, and had a hit record with their duet, "A Bad Goodbye," which was written by Black.

Alberto Tolot Lamoine

Clint Black

After more than 20 years as a top country performer, Tucker's voice and style still are unmistakable. Tucker was the CMA Female Vocalist of the Year in 1991, and recently voted Country Music Television's 1993 Female Video Artist of the Year. In addition to her recently released album, "Soon," on Liberty Records, Tucker brings her music and energy to a new exercise video, the "Tanya Tucker Country Workout." Tucker manages to find time in her busy performing schedule to serve as ambassador for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and to indulge her passion for horses as a competitor in the National Cutting Horse Association's annual Futurity.

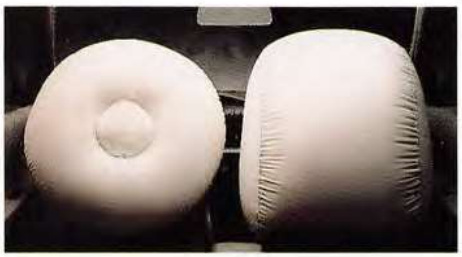
Tritt's rapid rise to the elite in contemporary country music has been phenomenal. The Atlanta native's 1990 debut album, "Country Club," produced three number-one singles and gained platinum status. He topped himself with 1991's "It's All About to Change," which reached double platinum, contained four number-one hits, and helped earn Tritt the CMA Horizon Award. "T-R-O-U-B-L-E," Tritt's most recent release, features his trademark hard-rocking country beat and odes to working men and women, coupled with heartfelt ballads and blues. Tritt, who is active in supporting veterans' issues, shared a Grammy with Marty Stuart in 1993 for Best Country Vocal Collaboration.

Wynonna

Naomi

One of the most familiar voices in country music after eight years as lead singer on the Judds' records, Wynonna has emerged as a major solo performer. Her second solo Curb/MCA album, "Tell Me Why," is confirming the range and artistry displayed in her first solo outing, which sold 3 million copies and established Wynonna as the first woman in country music history to hit triple platinum with a studio album. At Super Bowl XXVIII she'll sing one of her recent hits, "No One Else on Earth." Then, when the stage goes black following her neon-choreographed number, get ready for a major treat. Wynonna will be reunited onstage with her moth-

Al Gore will become the third United States Vice President to attend a Super Bowl when he joins NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue at the game today. Former vice presidents Spiro Agnew and George Bush also attended Super Bowl games (V and XVI, respectively).



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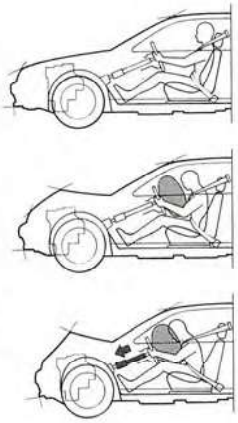

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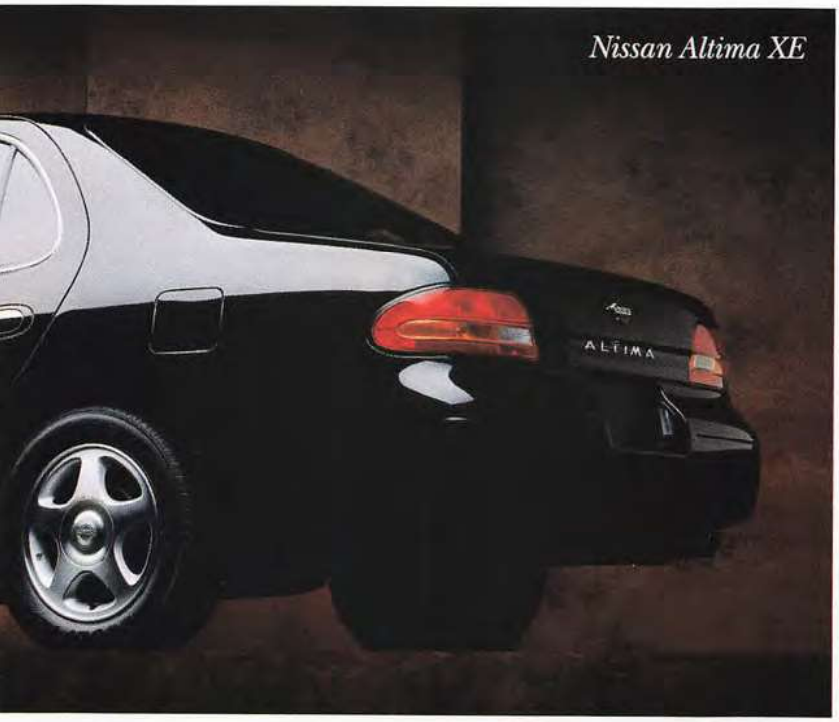
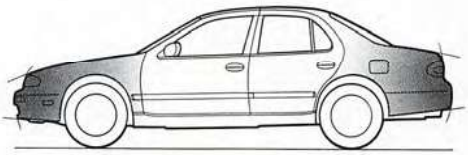


but a $45,000 car in an accident.



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Besides having many of the same luxury features, the $14,000 Nissan Altima and the typical $45,000 sedan share many of the same safety features. Of course, the Altima doesn't have a fancy hood ornament. But what kind of protection do you suppose is offered by a hood ornament? For more information, call 1-800-NISSAN-3 ext 494.*

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ROCKIN' COUNTRY SUNDAY

Tanya Tucker

er and former duet partner, Naomi Judd, for their first live performance since December, 1991. Naomi, a Grammy Award-winning songwriter on her own, and Wynonna were an unbeatable team, winning six Grammys and a vast array of other honors. Together today at midfield, and later joined by Black, Tucker, Tritt, and other celebrity guests, Wynonna and Naomi will sing "Love Can Build a Bridge" to end the country spectacular.

"Rockin' Country Sunday" features a cast of more than 2,000 performers from Atlanta and the surrounding communities, as well as a crew of 400 volunteers working backstage.

"This is the first time in Super Bowl history that a theatrical lighting package has been created for a halftime show," says Dennis Despie, executive producer of "Rockin' Country Sunday" for Select Productions International, Inc. of Tustin, California. But the real technical star of the show, he adds, is the stage itself. Stretching from 20-yard line to 20-yard line on the field, the high-tech, brushed metal structure has "phenomenal effects capabilities," including fog, smoke, and stunning pyrotechnics.

Travis Tritt

"This show will rock the Georgia Dome," Despie promises.

For the second consecutive year, the halftime show will be sponsored by Frito-Lay and televised live in its entirety by NBC Sports.

Select Productions International, Inc.
Halftime Show Credits

Executive Producer:	Dennis M. Despie
Producer:	Deana Sterr
Television Director:	Louis J. Horvitz
Staging Director:	Dee Dee Wood
Creative Director:	Tom Bahler
Production Designer:	Clare Graham
Lighting Director/Designer:	Bob Dickinson
Technical Director:	Bill Ferrell
Costume Designer:	Garland Riddle
Production Manager:	Woody Schlom
Production Supervisor:	Brian Despie
Production Coordinators:	Pam Antista
	Tom Burke
	Jeff Knepper
	John Moffitt
	Linnae Parsons
	Greg Pierson
Associate Choreographer:	Judy Chabola
Assistant Choreographer:	Scott Grossman
Line Dance Coordinator:	Carter Butler
Associate Art Director:	Steve Nelson
Set Supervisor:	Joe Zenas
Wardrobe Coordinators:	Allison Franklin
	Susan Adler
Audio Consultant:	Larry Estrin
Celebrity Casting:	Charlie Lico
First Production Assistant:	Sharon Taylor
Production Assistant:	Kelly Groves
Office Assistant:	Julie Despie
Director of Business Affairs:	Charles Redmon, Jr.

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CHARITABLE EFFORTS

Several deserving charities have benefited from fund-raising events surrounding the arrival of Super Bowl XXVIII in Atlanta.

On January 23, the Kickoff Celebration at the Hyatt Regency Hotel raised funds for Youth Education Town, a community outreach program the target of which is at-risk teenagers. Contributors paid $100 per ticket to attend a party with NFL celebrities and watch the NFC and AFC Championship Games on television. YET also received proceeds from entry fees for the United Way 5K Run that was contested earlier in the day. The race began and ended at the Georgia Dome.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta was the beneficiary of Super Bowl for Kids, an event that combined NFL players, celebrities, and bowling on January 25. Participants were invited to bid on players and celebrities to captain their bowling teams in the fund-raising competition. Former Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann served as chairman of the event.

Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit organization that helps provide housing for low-income families, was presented with the keys to four houses that were constructed in conjunction with the Super Bowl with funding from The Game, Stadium Stuff, and NFL Properties. The Game is a manufacturer of licensed NFL apparel and Stadium Stuff is a local retailer. Proceeds from the sale of a commemorative T-shirt available at Stadium Stuff also will be contributed to Habitat for Humanity.

Kids' Day at NFL Experience

More than 3,000 fifth-grade students from inner-city Atlanta public schools were the first visitors to The NFL Experience at the Georgia World Congress Center. They were invited to participate in the interactive exhibits and meet players and celebrities as guests of the NFL in a preview showing of the huge event on January 26, the day before it was opened to the general public.

How to Experience the NFL

Ordinarily, it takes years of practice to get a chance to sample NFL competition. But for Super Bowl fans in Atlanta this week, all it took was a trip to the Georgia World Congress Center.

That's where visitors found The NFL Experience, a one-of-a-kind pro football theme park with more than 30 interactive games, exhibits, and tests of skill involving America's favorite sport. Player appearances, rare football memorabilia, and the Coca-Cola Super Bowl Card show were among other highlights of the event.

Produced by NFL Properties, the league's marketing, licensing, and publishing arm, The NFL Experience came to Atlanta courtesy of American Express and Coca-Cola, in association with Classic Games, Foot Locker, Wavy Lay's, Miller Lite, and Starter.

Greg Crisp

Anyone can look like a pro.

The NFL Experience made its debut before 85,000 people in Minneapolis prior to Super Bowl XXVI, then went outdoors last year at Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena, California, where more than 115,000 fans enjoyed the exhibits and interactive events.

Major attractions at The NFL Experience include:

NFL Quarterback Challenge/Fans test their passing accuracy by throwing regulation game balls at sensor-driven targets. The event is modeled after the TV competition.

Extra-Point Kick/If competitors qualify in a preliminary round, they are given a chance to kick a regulation football through NFL goal-post uprights.

Fair Catch/An automated "Jugs" machine, like those used at NFL training camps, launches footballs and provides fans with the experience of fielding a simulated punt.

NFL's Fastest Man/Up to six people at a time run a 40-yard dash against an advancing path of flashing lights that simulate the speed of Raiders wide receiver Alexander Wright, the winner of last year's NFL Fastest Man competition.

NFL Films Theater/The award-winning NFL Films people present a high-impact feature that captures the intense emotion and dazzling plays of NFL action.

Air It Out/Armchair quarterbacks get a chance to limber up their arms in a long-distance challenge to their passing ability.

NFL Training Camp/Competitors race through a high-tech training drill.

Down-and-Out/Fans run a pass route through a maze of simulated defensive backs and try to catch a touchdown pass thrown by an automated machine.

Century of Pro Football/An opportunity to revisit pro football's glorious past, through rare photographs and memorabilia on loan from the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Foot Locker NFL Team Shop/The ultimate NFL shopping experience: Officially licensed merchandise from all 30 NFL teams, including the new Carolina Panthers and Jacksonville Jaguars.

Scott Cunningham

The night before the game is exciting, too.

Measure Up to the Pros/A chance for fans to compare their physical dimensions and athletic abilities to those of some of the biggest stars in the game.

NFL Locker Room/A replica of an authentic NFL locker room as it appears on game day, featuring videos of the rituals players go through before taking the field.

Wilson Football Factory/An on-site demonstration by Wilson employees, showing how an official NFL football is sized, cut, stitched, and assembled.

Rob Brown

Try on a helmet for size.

Another Showdown/A chance to wear an NFL jersey and be videotaped throwing a game-winning touchdown bomb to an NFL receiver.

Coca-Cola Super Bowl Card Show V/A 75,000-square-foot extravaganza with exhibits from major trading-card companies and free player autograph sessions.

Other attractions at The NFL Experience are: "Make Your Own Trading Card," "Look Like a Pro" (featuring life-size fiber glass castings of NFL players—you supply the head), a Logo-7 Super Bowl cap embroidery machine, a special UPS station, the "Ultimate Fans' Rooms," and a display of the NFL's youth education programs.

Where to Get Tickets

Tickets for The NFL Experience can be purchased at the gate or in advance through TicketMaster Southeast (subject to TicketMaster service charge). Ticket prices are: adults, 13 years and older, $9 in advance ($12 at the door); children, $6.

Hours of Operation

The NFL Experience is open Thursday (January 27) through Saturday (January 29) from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. and on Sunday (January 30) from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Super Bowl Saturday Night

Super Bowl excitement arrived the night before the big game when Wavy Lay's presented the third annual "Super Bowl Saturday Night" show live from The NFL Experience. The entertainment and awards show, featuring an appearance by country music sensation Travis Tritt, aired from 8-9:30 P.M. (EST) on Turner Network Television.

Among the highlights of the evening were the announcement of this year's Hall of Fame class and the winners of the NFL's most prestigious awards: Rookie of the Year, Coach of the Year, Edge Man of the Year, and Miller Lite Player of the Year.

Who Will Start the Bidding?

More than 1,000 lots of valuable sports collectibles were put to bid on January 27-28 at The NFL Experience Memorabilia Auction at the Georgia World Congress Center. Among the prized items were an autographed jersey worn by Joe Namath during his rookie season and a 1933 Napoleon Lajoie baseball trading card valued at more than $70,000 in mint condition. Proceeds benefited charity.

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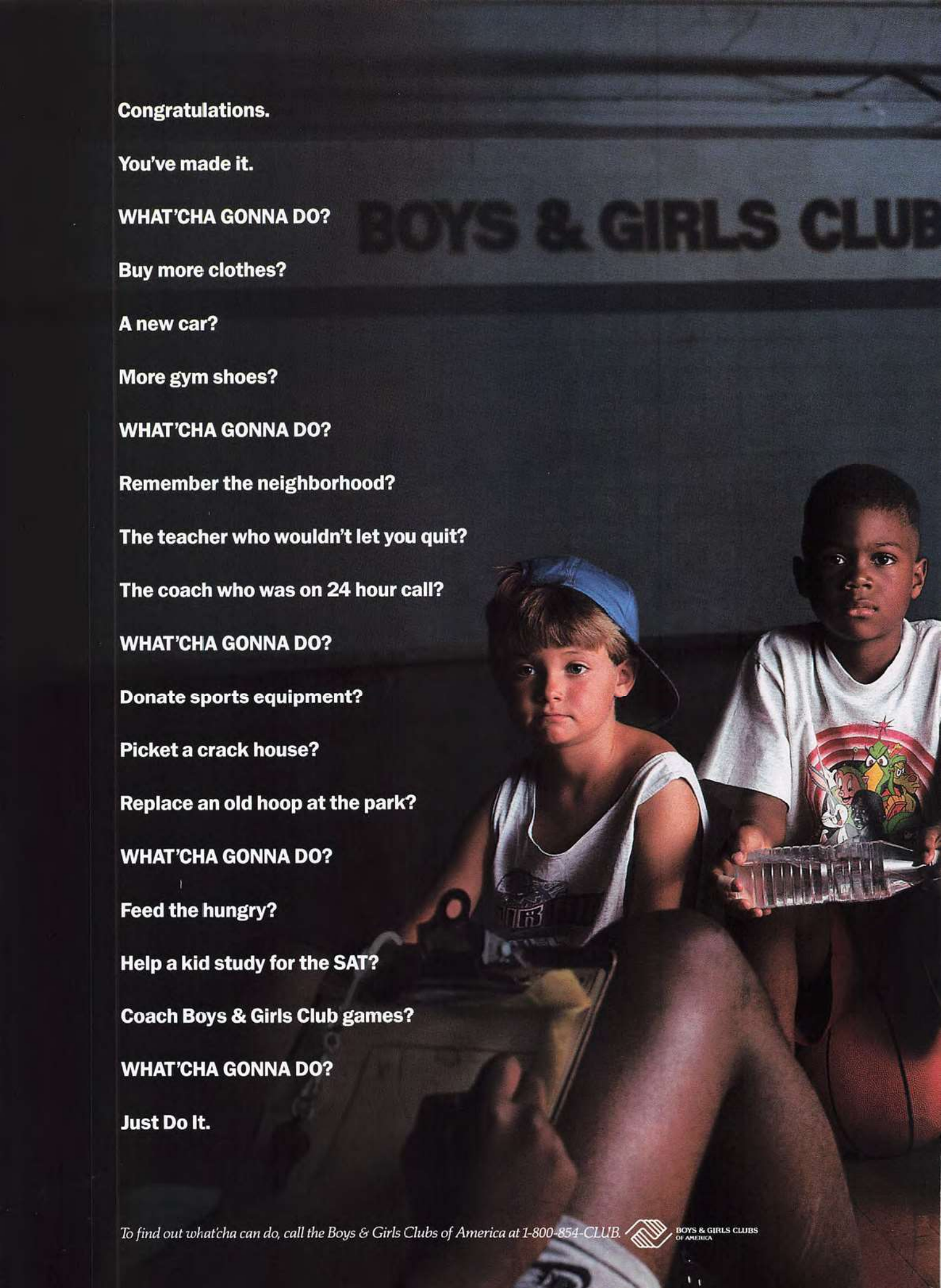

Congratulations.

You've made it.

WHAT'CHA GONNA DO?

Buy more clothes?

A new car?

More gym shoes?

WHAT'CHA GONNA DO?

Remember the neighborhood?

The teacher who wouldn't let you quit?

The coach who was on 24 hour call?

WHAT'CHA GONNA DO?

Donate sports equipment?

Picket a crack house?

Replace an old hoop at the park?

WHAT'CHA GONNA DO?

Feed the hungry?

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*Select models. © 1993 Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc.

BACK-TO-BACK

NBC Sports this year becomes the first network to televise consecutive Super Bowls exclusively. Last January, NBC's coverage of Super Bowl XXVII also was historic; it attracted more than 133 million viewers, making it the most-watched television program in history.

Today's Super Bowl telecast begins at 4 P.M. (EST) with a special edition of "NFL Live," NBC's pregame show. The two-hour program will originate inside the Georgia Dome and will be hosted by Jim Lampley. Joining Lampley will be analysts Mike Ditka and O.J. Simpson, reporter Will McDonough, and commentators Todd Christensen, Cris Collinsworth, Joe Gibbs, and Paul Maguire. Bob Costas also will contribute as an interviewer/commentator.

At 6 P.M. NBC's top broadcasting team of play-by-play announcer Dick Enberg and analyst Bob Trumpy will take over for the call of the game. This is Enberg's sixth Super Bowl telecast in 17 seasons as NBC's primary play-by-play voice. In addition to winning three Emmy Awards as outstanding sports personality/play-by-play, he has won Emmy Awards for production and writing. Trumpy, a former NFL tight end who played 10 seasons with the Cincinnati Bengals, is calling his second Super Bowl as a analyst. He has worked NFL regular-season game telecasts for NBC for 16 years.

Kimberly Butler/NBC

Dick Enberg **(left)** *and Bob Trumpy of NBC*

Producer John Faratzis also will be working his second Super Bowl for NBC. He has been the coordinating producer of NFL coverage on NBC since 1989 and has won four Emmy Awards in his career. John Gonzalez, who is directing the game telecast, has been involved with each of the six Super Bowls on NBC since 1981. He also directed the 1992 Emmy Award-winning telecast of the Breeders' Cup, Olympic gymnastics from Barcelona, and a host of other headline events for NBC sports.

Ham It Up

Skint Chestnut Amateur Radio Society will broadcast from special event station N4ZCV/SB28 today (13002-23592) to celebrate the first Super Bowl to be played in Atlanta. Operation will be in the lower general portion of the sub-phone band. For a commemorative QSL card write: S.C.A.R.S., 200 Tradeport Boulevard, Suite 207, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. Include a S.A.S.E. and contact number.

Among other events ham radio operators have celebrated with special broadcasts are the anniversary of the Wright Brothers' first flight, the Tournament of Roses, and the anniversary of the Oklahoma Land Giveaway.

Most Valuable Artist

Each year following the Super Bowl, nationally acclaimed artist Merv Corning has an assignment—paint a portrait of the game's most valuable player. Corning, who resides in Solvang, California, has amazing control of the difficult watercolor medium and a gift for capturing the characters of the NFL players he paints. His painting of Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman, Super Bowl XXVII most valuable player, is shown above.

PRISON PARTNERSHIP

The NFL supplied film highlights, and current and former players made personal appearances at correctional institutions in Georgia as part of the Prison Partnership effort preceding the Super Bowl. The program was coordinated by the Cecil B. Day Foundation as part of the Prison Ministry Partnership that attempts to meet the needs of inmates and their families.

Bilingual Bowl

CBS, Inc.

CBS Radio's Hank Stram **(left)** *and Jack Buck*

CBS Radio Sports begins its fourteenth Super Bowl broadcast at 5:45 P.M. (EST) with a pregame show hosted by Greg Gumbel and Matt Millen. Then it's over to Jack Buck and Hank Stram, who have been together in the CBS Radio booth for every Super Bowl since 1978. Buck's expert play-by-play is matched by analyst (and winning coach of Super Bowl IV) Stram's trained eye, as they bring every play to an anticipated audience of 13 million listeners. This year's broadcast will be carried by stations in 375 U.S. markets, as well as more than 400 Armed Forces Radio Network outlets worldwide.

Spanish-speaking listeners in the U.S. and throughout Latin America will be able to enjoy live coverage of the Super Bowl for the fourth consecutive year through affiliates of the CBS Hispanic Radio Network. Five postseason games and a special feature, "The Road to the Super Bowl," were broadcast earlier to an estimated 25 million listeners. In the booth today for CBS Hispanic Radio are long-time Miami Dolphins voice Rene Giraldo, former Dallas Cowboys announcer Armando Quintero, Minnesota Vikings kicker Fuad Reveiz, and Univision sportscaster Jessi Losada.

CBS Radio Sports' Super Bowl XXVIII English broadcast can be heard in the Atlanta area on WGST-AM (640)/WGST-FM (105.7). The Spanish game coverage is on WAOS-AM (1660).

CBS Radio

CBS's Hispanic Team **(left to right):** *Jessi Losada, Armando Quintero, Rene Giraldo, and Fuad Reveiz*

Class Act

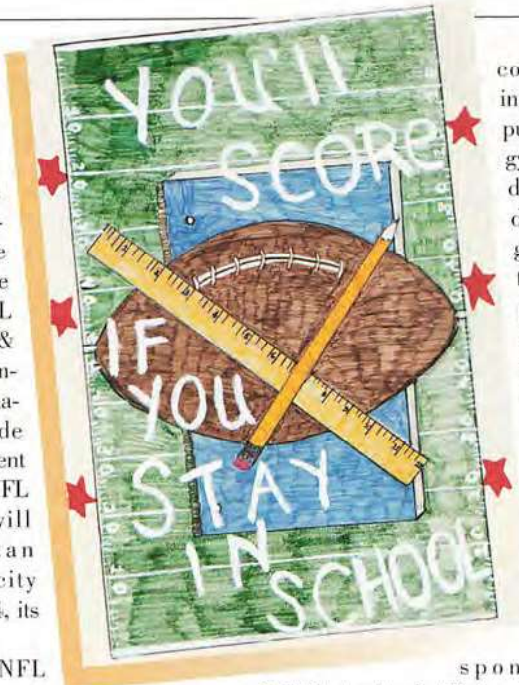

Illustration: Michael King

This season, the National Football League continued its tradition of working with corporate sponsors to promote education. NFL FACT (Football & Academics: A Championship Team), a national fourth-grade reading enhancement program utilizing NFL trading cards, will reach more than 300,000 inner-city schools in 1993-94, its third school year.

Operated by NFL Properties and sponsored by Russell Athletic, Shell Oil, and Fleer Trading Cards, FACT helps develop a child's intellectual skills with lessons based on monthly themes, such as "Stay in School," "Stay Fit," and "Stay Off Drugs." A highlight of the program is its annual poster contest, the grand prize of which is a trip to the Pro Bowl in Honolulu for the winner and his/her teacher. This year's winning entry (*above*) was by Michael King, of the Jacob Hiatt Magnet School in Worcester, Massachusetts.

GTE and the NFL are entering the third year of their partnership for education, called Project PASS (Promoting Achievement and Student Skills). Directed at seventh-grade math students, Project PASS presents basic math problems in an NFL context, using interactive computer technology to help kids develop an understanding of geometry, statistics, and probability concepts. Project PASS, now in its second year, is used by more than 26,000 students in five NFL markets. GTE also is the sponsor of the CoSIDA Academic All-America Teams Program, which annually honors student-athletes in colleges and universities across the country. Former GTE Academic All-America Team members now playing in the NFL include Raiders quarterback Jeff Hostetler, Colts linebacker Duane Bickett, and Seahawks cornerback Carlton Gray. The spokesperson for GTE's Academic All-America Program is Dick Enberg, the play-by-play announcer for NBC's broadcast of today's game.

Other ongoing NFL-sponsored educational programs include Teacher of the Month/Teacher of the Year, in which current players recognize teachers who made a difference in their lives, and NFL YET (Youth Education Town). For more on NFL YET, see the article beginning on page 210.

NFL Tees It Up

More than 300 golfers hit the links for fun and worthy causes at the ISI Super Bowl Charity Golf Classic last Thursday at The Country Club of Georgia. The field included many NFL legends, current players (such as Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor), and members of the Pro Football Writers Association. Proceeds generated by the tournament go to NFL-sponsored charity programs. The event, which has been held prior to each Super Bowl since Super Bowl XIX, was sponsored this year by Integrated Sports International, one of the country's fastest growing sports marketing organizations. The Super Bowl Charity Golf Classic has raised more than $700,000.

New York Giants superstar linebacker Lawrence Taylor poses with his "team."

Bill Cummings

Youth Was Served

Inside: Free X-Men Comic
PRO ACTION
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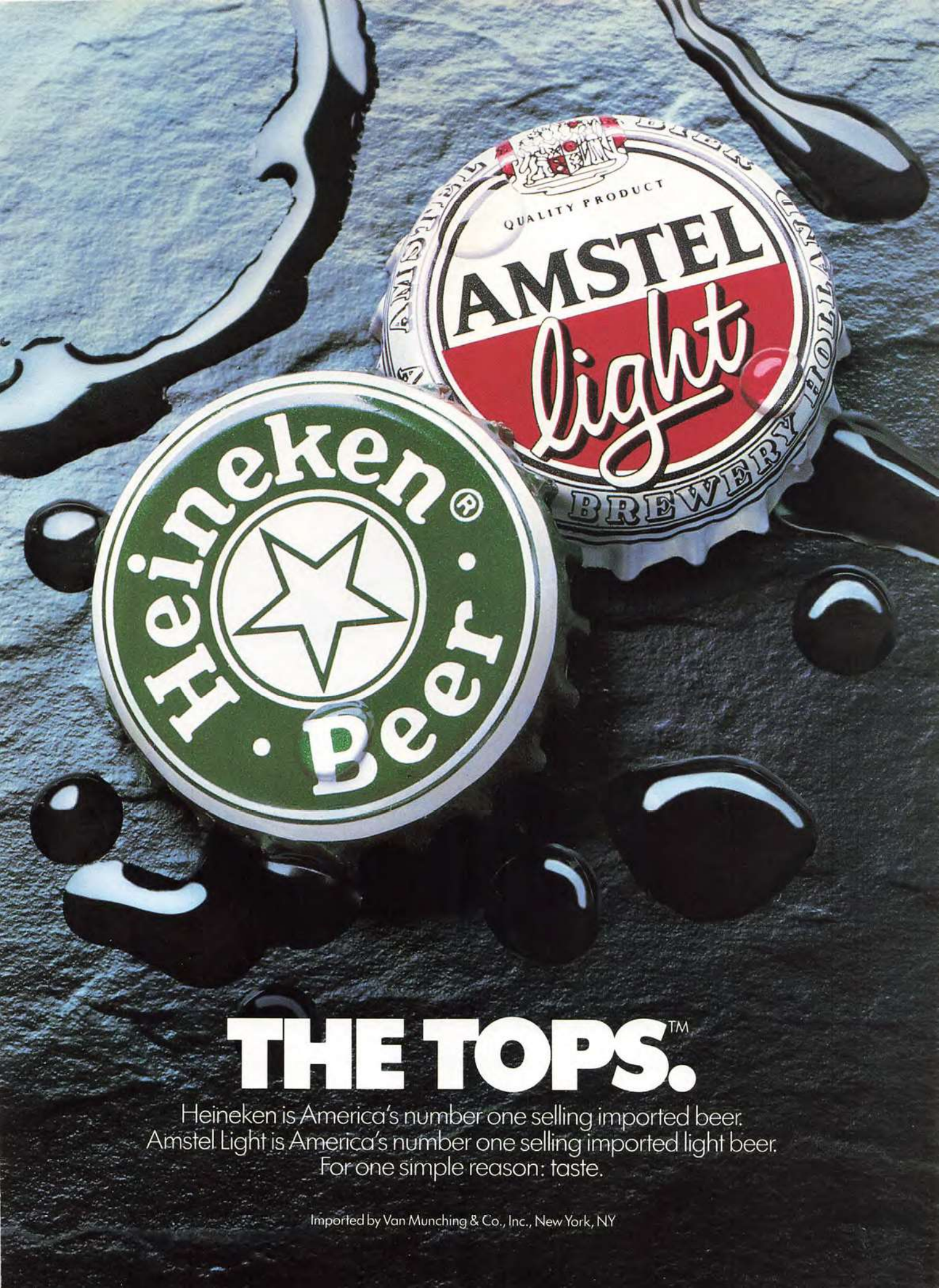
$2.95
Success Hasn't Spoiled Aikman
Little Players Make Big Impact
How Junior Seau Builds His Body
Opening Day for 49ers Rookie
Sunshine Forever in NFL Gear
Send Us Your Art!
RAIDERS' TERMINATOR BOWIE LONG MEETS X-MEN'S WOLVERINE

Michael Burr/NFLP

Atlanta-area kids got hands-on football experience the NFL way when the Frito-Lay NFL Super Bowl XXVIII Clinic came to town last weekend. More than 50 NFL players taught basic football skills to the more than 3,000 11- to 14-year-olds in attendance at the Georgia Dome. The players also conveyed strong anti-drug and pro-education messages and, above all, helped everyone have a good time.

Youngsters who were tuned to NBC at 3 P.M. yesterday had a chance to have fun and gain insight into pro football on "Which Way to the Super Bowl?" The youth-oriented special, produced by NFL Films, NFL Properties, and Indigo Entertainment, featured appearances by NFL stars Steve Young, Warren Moon, and Marcus Allen. The program, which included NFL film clips dubbed over with quirky voices and irreverent humor that highlighted the game's lighter side, is a prototype for a series that is scheduled to debut next fall.

The NFL's newest magazine, *Pro Action*, has its premiére at today's game. The kickoff issue of the youth-themed publication is included in the pouch attached to the souvenir seat cushions in the Georgia Dome. Created in conjunction with Marvel Comics, *Pro Action's* contents include colorful feature articles on NFL stars written with a youthful slant. Other columns and stories highlight fitness, fashion, and other issues relevant to today's youth. Each issue also contains a special collectible Marvel comic produced exclusively for *Pro Action*. *Pro Action* will be published bimonthly during the NFL season beginning with the July, 1994, issue.



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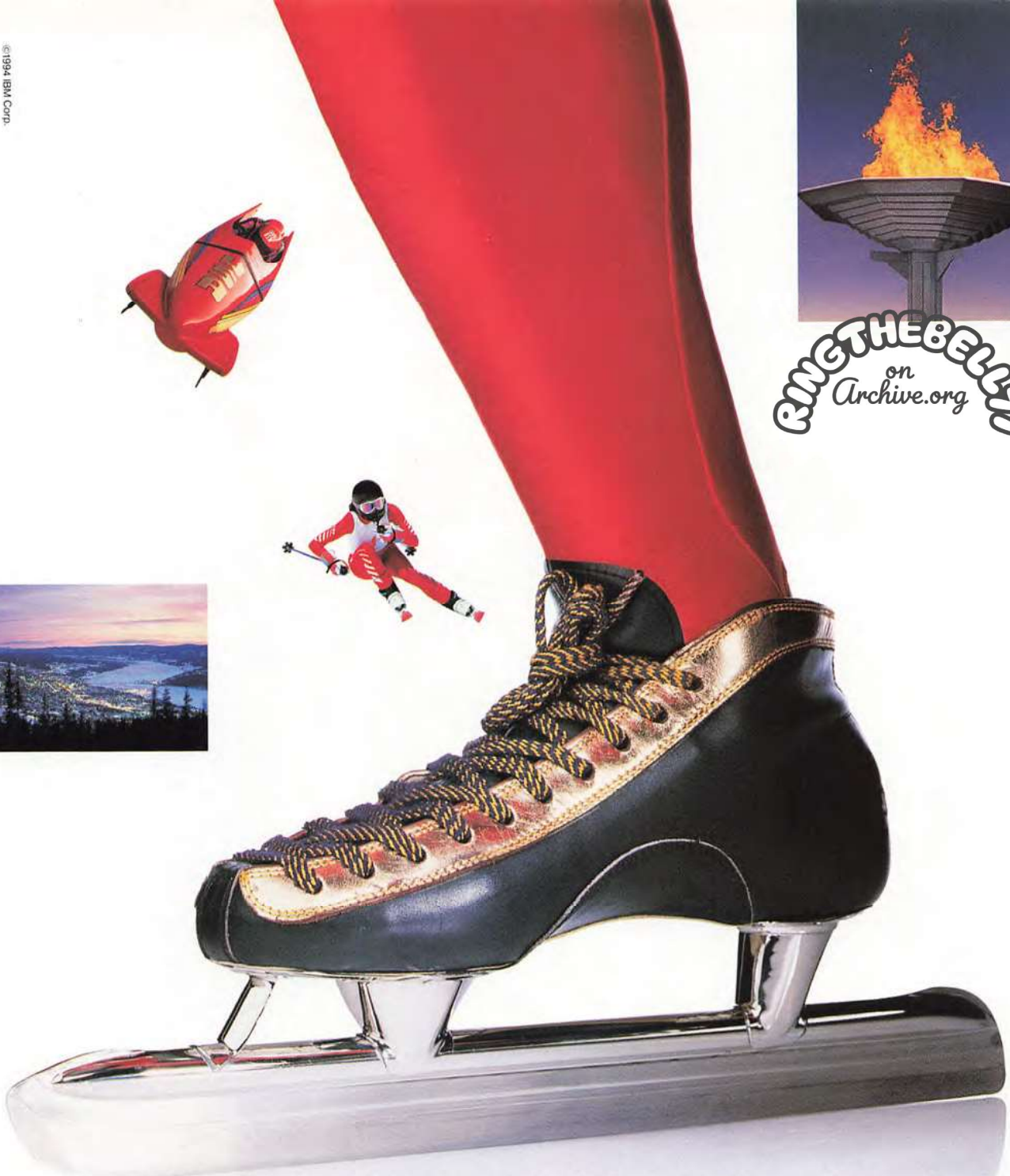

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GOLD, SILVER,

IBM has played a supporting role in the Olympic Games since 1960. But this time it's different. Without the slightest exaggeration, we can proudly say that everything you'll see at Lillehammer–every event, every arena, every athlete—will be touched in some way by IBM. More than just providing hardware, systems software and support, we helped plan, design, integrate and *manage* the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. IBM-based systems

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To the Victors...

Jim Cornfield 2

George Halas Trophy *Lamar Hunt Trophy* *Rozelle, Lombardi Trophies*

More hardware is at stake today, but the two teams in Super Bowl XXVIII already have collected handsome trophies. The George Halas Trophy (NFC) and Lamar Hunt Trophy (AFC) were awarded to each conference champion, as they have been since 1984. The Vince Lombardi Trophy, commemorating the Packers' head coach who directed victories in Super Bowls I and II, will be awarded to the Super Bowl winner. The Pete Rozelle Trophy, presented for the first time after Super Bowl XXV, will be given to the game's most valuable player.

A new Lombardi Trophy is handcrafted by Tiffany & Co. each year, using a four-step process—spinning, silver-smithing, chasing, and finishing—that requires four months. The 7-pound, 21-inch trophy is returned to Tiffany for final engraving after the game. Tiffany & Co. also produced the NFL Coach of the Year, Rookie of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award trophies that were given live on the Super Bowl Saturday Night telecast, 8-9:30 P.M. (EST) on TNT.

Honorable Mentions

Each season, the NFL's top players are honored for their athletic performance and their work in their communities. Three of the most prestigious awards are the Miller Lite NFL Player of the Year, Edge NFL Man of the Year, and, new in 1993, the Cadillac NFL Quarterback of the Year.

Since 1989, Miller Lite has recognized the most notable players from each NFL team with its NFL Player of the Year Award program. A player of the week is chosen from each active NFL team during the season. A national player of the week also is selected. At the end of the regular season, 28 Miller Lite Team Players of the Year are picked. From that group, six NFL Player of the Year finalists are chosen. A national media panel coordinated by the Pro Football Hall of Fame then selects the ultimate winner, who receives a $30,000 donation to his favorite charity from Miller Brewing Company. The other five finalists and Team Players of the Year also receive charity donations in their names, making a total of more than $125,000 for worthy causes. The 1992 winner was San Francisco quarterback Steve Young.

The Edge/NFL Man of the Year honors the league's outstanding "citizen-athlete." At the beginning of the season one nominee from each team is selected on the basis of contributions on the field and exceptional service off the field. The winner is chosen from this group, and a $25,000 donation is made by Edge to the award-winner's favorite charity. Last year's Edge/NFL Man of the Year was Denver quarterback John Elway.

For the first time, the NFL's best quarterback will be singled out. It is fitting that the NFL Quarterback of the Year Award, given to the "Cadillacs" of NFL players, is sponsored by General Motors's Cadillac Division.

Remember to Recycle

The National Football League, in conjunction with the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and Augustine Environmental, has arranged environmental awareness and recycling programs for events during Super Bowl week. Recycling bins were placed in the media center at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, The NFL Experience at the Georgia World Congress Center, and the Georgia Dome, site of Super Bowl XXVIII. Each bin is labeled by specific material type (glass, aluminum, paper, and plastic). Contributing to the conservation effort are the many Super Bowl caterers and suppliers who have complied by using recyclable products.

Take a Seat

For the ninth consecutive year, GTE is supplying souvenir seat cushions for the entire Super Bowl stadium crowd. GTE, the telecommunications consultant to the NFL and Super Bowl XXVIII, worked with students from Atlanta's Morris Brown College to place the seat cushions in the Georgia Dome. Morris Brown is a member of the Atlanta University Center, a consortium of local schools that also includes Atlanta University, Clark College, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, Morehouse Medical School, and Spelman College. To show its appreciation for the efforts of the Morris Brown student volunteers, GTE donated $10,000 to the school.

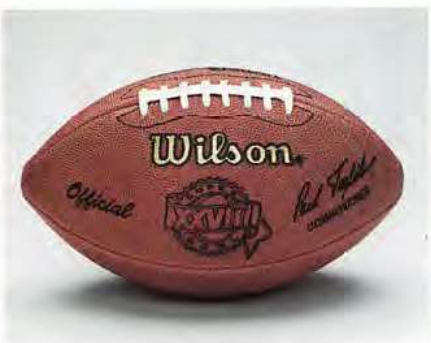
Fans at the stadium get to take home more than their GTE seat cushions. Attached to each cushion is a fold-over pouch that holds special collectible gift items. For Super Bowl XXVIII, the pouch contains a souvenir flashlight provided by Eveready, a multiband pocket radio capable of receiving CBS Radio's English and Spanish broadcasts of the game, and a copy of the kickoff issue of *Pro Action*, the hot new kids magazine from the NFL published in conjunction with Marvel Comics. Also included is a set of Classic pro football trading cards.

GTE also is the sponsor of the special "Where's Waldo? at Super Bowl XXVIII" poster insert in today's game program. The colorful and creative poster, featuring the internationally recognized Waldo character created by Martin Handford, is the first poster to appear in a Super Bowl game program.

Al Messerschmidt

Game Ball

The Official Wilson Super Bowl XXVIII commemorative football used on the field today features the Super Bowl logo, along with the date and site of the game. A limited number of these special game balls are available at selected sporting goods outlets, including the Foot Locker store at The NFL Experience theme park in the Georgia World Congress Center.



Michael C. Burr/ NFLP

SUNDAY
AFTERNOONS
THIS FALL,
YOU CAN
EITHER
MOW
THE
LAWN...

GUEST STARS

The Super Bowl brings together a spectrum of personalities, as evidenced by the bylines of five special contributors in today's game program. Offering their unique perspectives are former United States President Jimmy Carter, renowned poet and novelist James Dickey, NBC commentator and *Boston Globe* columnist Will McDonough, columnist Scott Ostler of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and *GameDay* magazine editor Phil Barber.

President Jimmy Carter

The appearance by President Carter, a Georgia native and former governor of the state, is especially appropriate on the occasion of the first Super Bowl to be played in Atlanta. The nation's thirty-ninth president, known for his active involvement in civic and charitable causes, compares sports to society and cites the importance of teamwork, beginning on page 123.

James Dickey

Dickey, Poet-in-Residence at the University of South Carolina and holder of numerous honorary degrees, has been honored for his compilations of poetry, *Puella* and *Buckdancer's Choice*. He recently followed up his acclaimed first novel, *Deliverance*, with a second work of fiction, *To the White Sea*. His poem, "Breaking the Field," is found on page 159. It salutes the brave hearts who make their living returning punts.

McDonough, whose commentary can be heard each Sunday during the season on NBC's "NFL Live," also is a columnist for the *Boston Globe* and one of the few journalists who have attended every Super Bowl. His varied recollections of those 27 games begin on page 173.

Ostler, whose career included stops at the *Los Angeles Times* and the *National*, has been selected California sportswriter of the year five times. His most recent book is *Up Close and In Your Face With the Greats, Near Greats, and Ingrates of Sports With Roy Firestone*. Ostler's Super Bowl column begins on page 139.

Barber is a seven-year veteran of the NFL, albeit with the less rugged Creative Services Division of NFL Properties. He's been the editor of the NFL's *GameDay* magazine since 1991. Beginning on page 191, he describes what might have been if Joe Namath's Jets had *not* won Super Bowl III.

Several other talents make appearances in today's program. Frequent contributor Ray Didinger of the *Philadelphia Daily News* provides an in-depth look at the Namath of today, 25 years after his heroics. Contributing local insights are Furman Bisher and Len Pasquarelli of the *Atlanta Constitution* and *Journal*.

Scott Ostler

Phil Barber

HANGING UP THEIR SPIKES

The National Football League bids farewell to three long-time employees at Super Bowl XXVIII. Former NFL executive director Don Weiss (see Q&A beginning on page 203) and former director of public relations Jim Heffernan both recently retired. Former assistant director of special events and Super Bowl party-planning maven Susan McCann Minogue has opted for full-time motherhood. Among them, Weiss, Heffernan, and Minogue have more than 70 years of Super Bowl experience. They will be difficult players to replace.

SUPER BOWL CHANNEL

Super Bowl fever never was farther away than the TV remote control this week, thanks to special programming that appeared on SportSouth TV and was beamed throughout a seven-state area. Coca-Cola was the presenting sponsor of the "Super Bowl Channel," on which 40 hours of game-related features and live coverage provided a behind-the-scenes look at Super Bowl week. Programming began at 5 P.M. January 27 and continued until a few hours before kickoff.

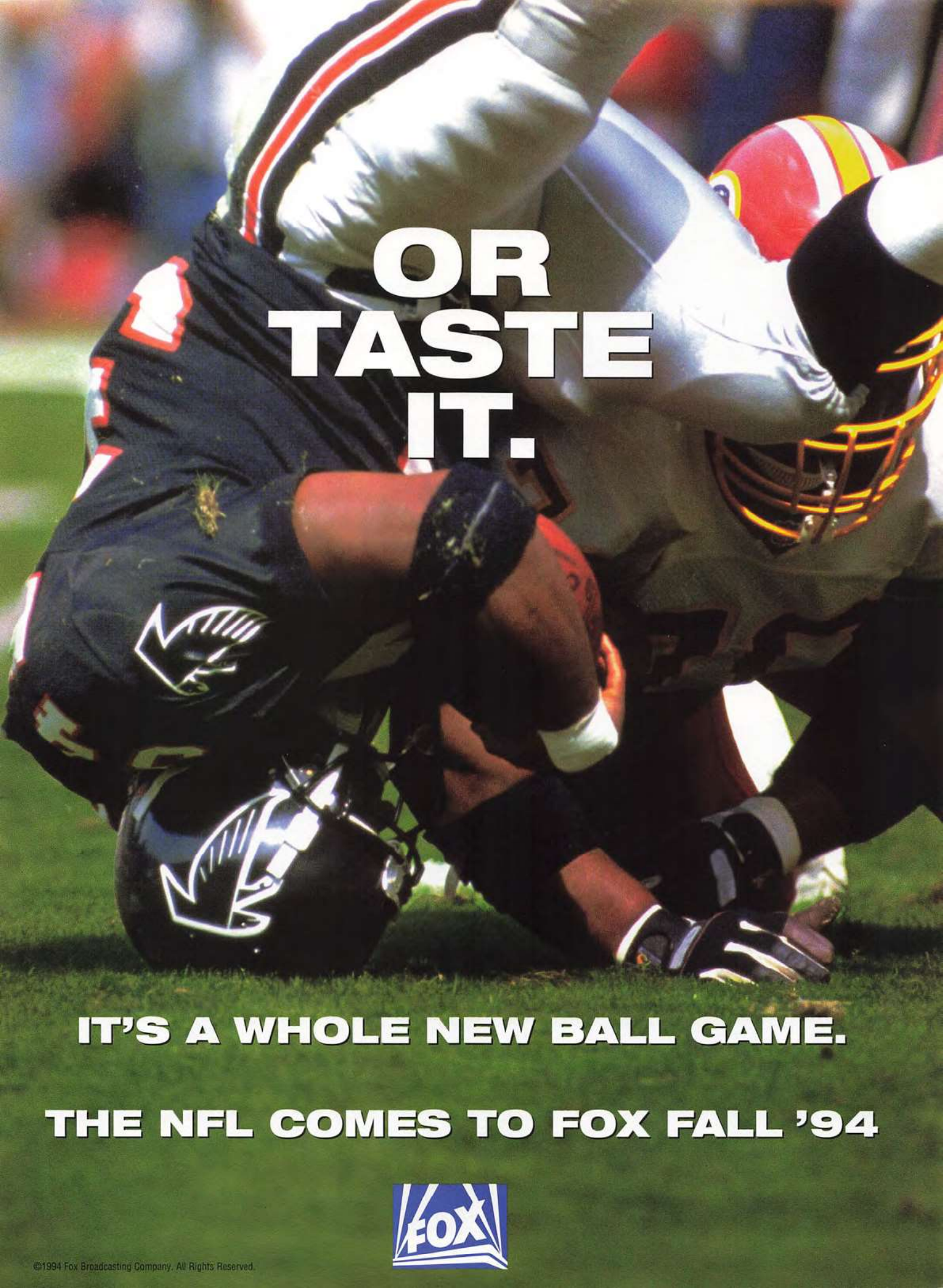
An NFLPA Celebration

More than 150 members of the NFL Players Association participated in what the organization described as the "World's Largest Super Bowl Party" at the Atlanta Apparel Mart. The four-day event began on January 27 and featured live entertainment, trivia contests, indoor tailgate parties, and basketball and video challenges against NFL players, with proceeds benefiting charities that included Youth Education Town, the Players Assistance Trust, and the Richard Dent Foundation. Ronnie Lott of the New York Jets, Marcus Allen of the Kansas City Chiefs, and Mike Kenn of the Atlanta Falcons served as hosts.

Party Time

Even if you didn't know a touchdown from a touchback, the Atlanta Host Committee could direct you to plenty of excitement in Atlanta this week. Underground Atlanta began hopping January 27 with the Coca-Cola Block & Tackle Party, a special four-night event featuring live entertainment, at the New Georgia Railroad Depot. Standup comedian Tim Allen, star of ABC-TV's "Home Improvement," performed at the Fox Theater on January 27, and legendary entertainer Frank Sinatra appeared in concert at the Omni on Super Bowl eve.

For those with quieter interests, there was the Taste of NFL III on Super Bowl eve at the Swissotel. Top chefs and former players from each NFL city combined to prepare gourmet meals representing their locales. Proceeds from ticket sales benefited Atlanta's Table and other hunger relief organizations.



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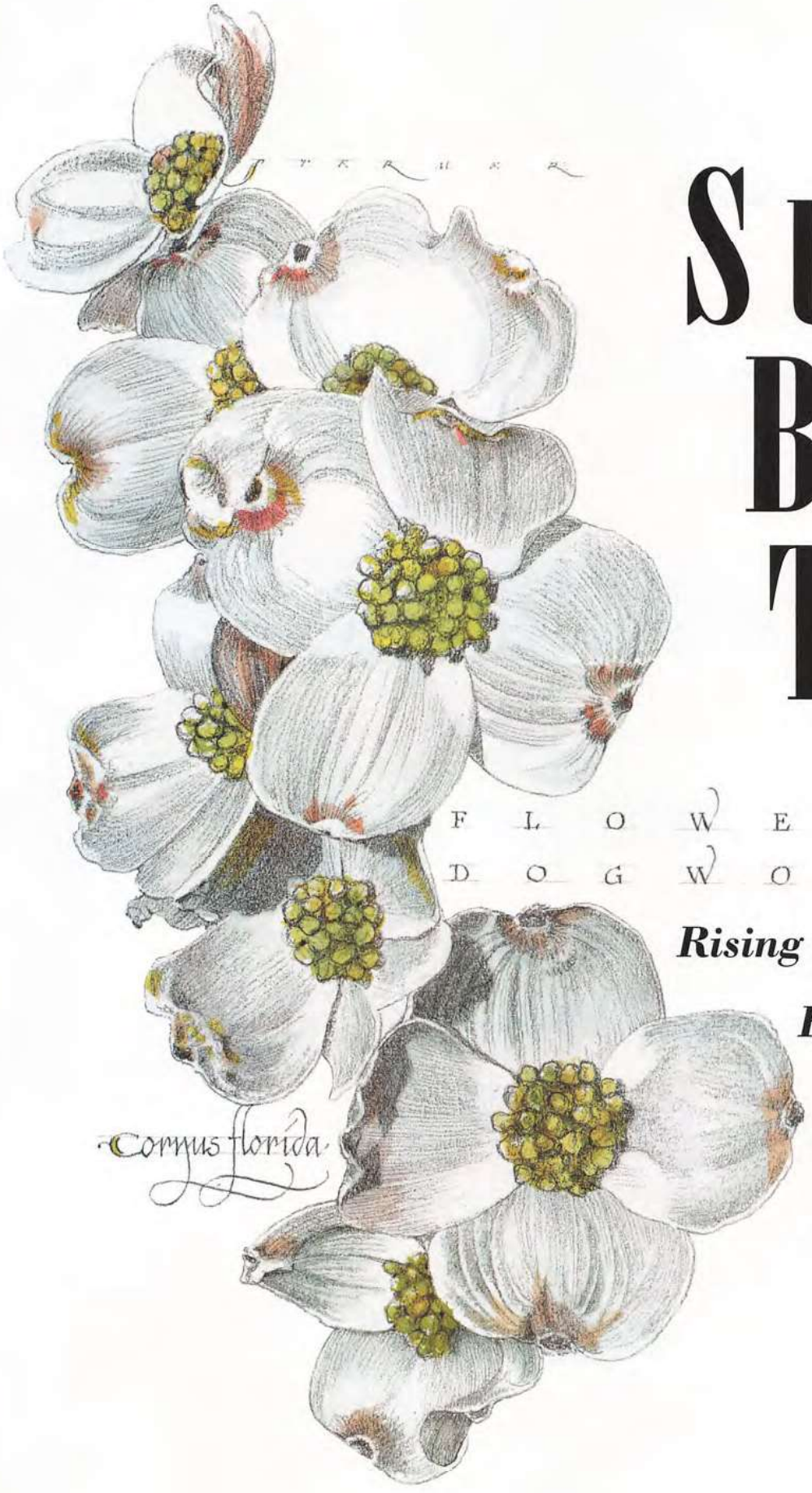

SUPER BOWL THEN

Rising to the Occasion

Halftime History

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PLANTER'S PUNCH
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©Bartles & Jaymes Co.1993

BRIGHT SIGHTS, BIG SOUNDS

As the Players Head to the Locker Room, Let's Take a Quick Look at Super Bowl Halftimes of the Past

From the time that guy in the rocket suit (right) sputtered around the Los Angeles Coliseum and brought the Super Bowl I crowd an optimistic view of the near future, the Super Bowl halftime show has been followed almost as closely as the game itself. With national celebrities and million-dollar productions now dominating the field, we've come a long way from the quaint stagings of the late 1960s, which look like grade-school Christmas pageants by comparison. Still, some commonalities remain. The brilliant colors, grandiose vision, and spirited participation haven't changed much in XXVIII years. They are what keep fans firmly rooted in their seats—be they in the Georgia Dome or the family living room—while the AFC and NFC representatives are busy plotting second-half maneuvers.

Vic Stein

NFL Photos

A shocking new trend for the '90s. Men who dress up like men.

Loose Fit Jeans
Sweats
Casuals
free'dom (frē'dŭm), n. Quality or state of being free; as: a Liberty; independence. b Frankness; unres- c Facility.

Those Italian designers must be beside themselves. These days, it seems like the only clothes men want to wear are the basics. They want comfortable clothes like casual pants, casual shirts, and that old standby, a great fitting pair of jeans. In short, the kind of clothes we make at Lee. It's amazing how good you can look when you're not dressing up for anybody but yourself.

Lee
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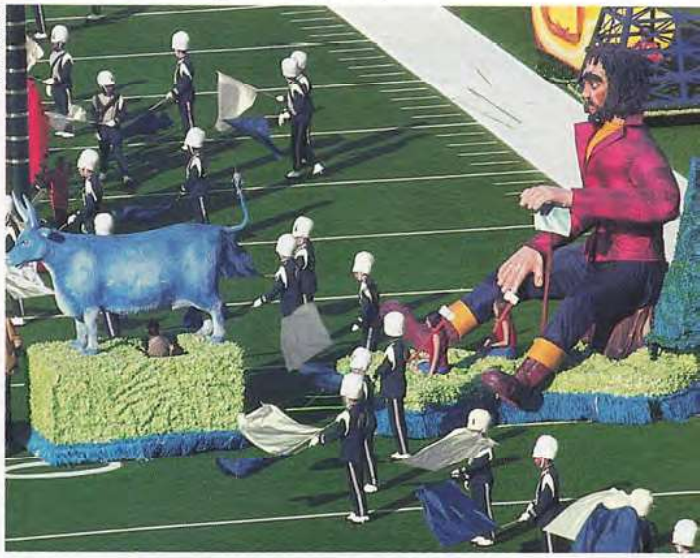
David Boss

SUPER BOWL II

Who says Old Man Winter never visits Miami? He was escorted onto the field at the second AFL-NFL Championship Game (above).

SUPER BOWL V

Talk about legends of the game! A rather stiff Paul Bunyan and his trusted blue pulling guard Babe go to work at the Orange Bowl (below).



Herb Weitman

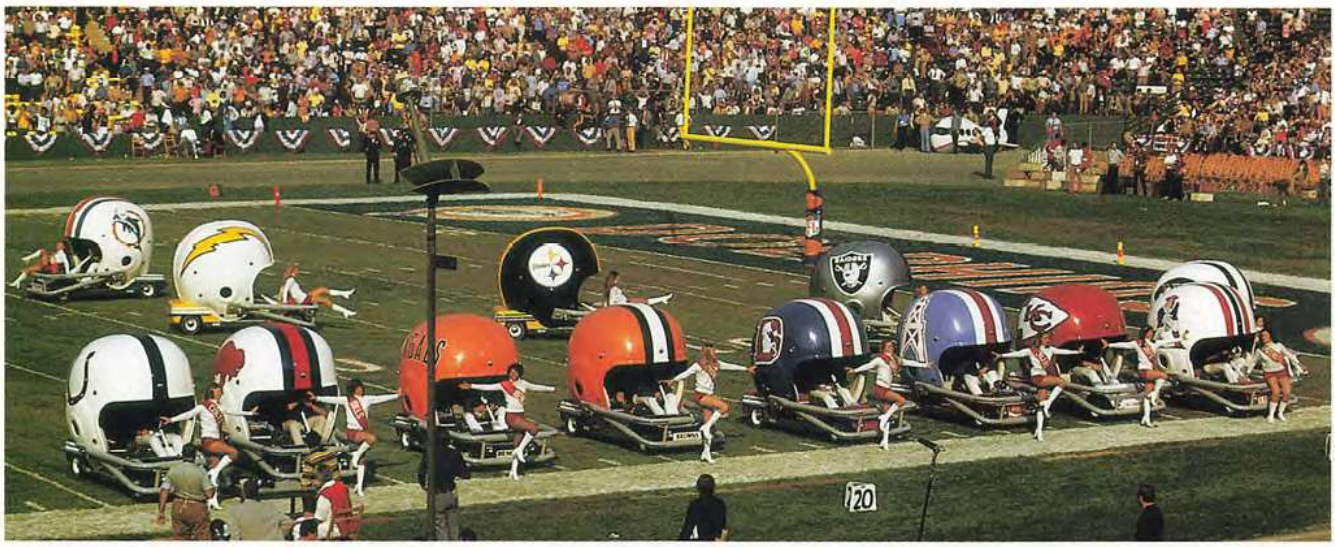
Vernon Biever

SUPER BOWL III

Quarterbacks Joe Namath and Earl Morrall weren't the only participants instructed to keep the ball on the ground (left).

SUPER BOWL VII

Do AFC girls really have more fun? It must be easy to enjoy yourself when you have your own chauffeur-driven football helmet (below).



Malcolm Emmons

SUPER BOWL XVII

A group of Redskins fans (right) subverted an otherwise well-executed card stunt.

Al Messerschmidt

Herb Weitman

SUPER BOWL XIX

This NASA mock-up didn't actually get off the Stanford Stadium field, but it did provide a spark to the day's festivities.

SUPER BOWL XX

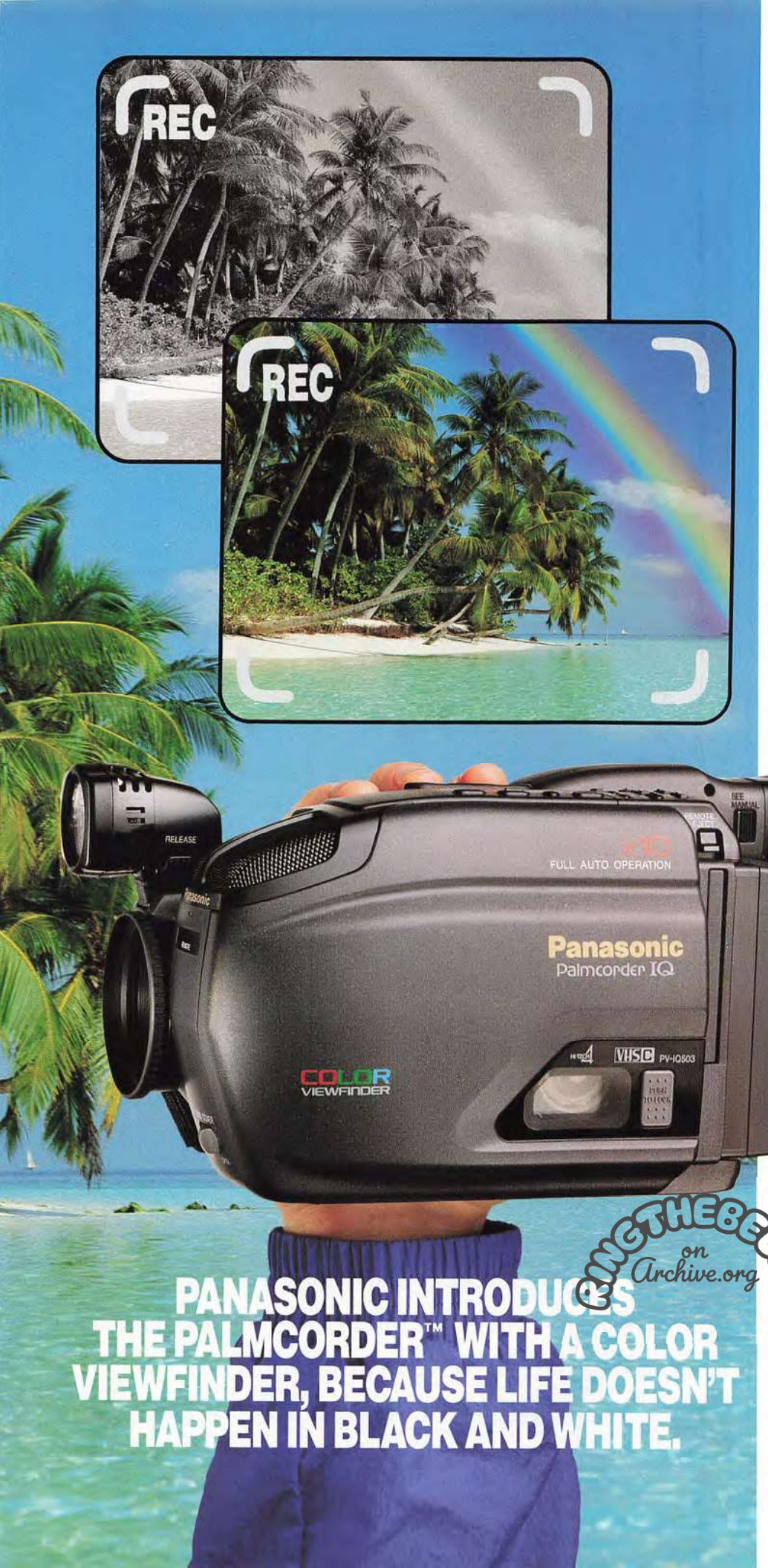
A darkened Louisiana Superdome (right) took on a galactic look in January of 1986.

Al Messerschmidt

Miguel Elliot

SUPER BOWL XXII

San Diego got into the swing with a record (we think) 88 on-field pianos and 44 high-stepping Rockettes.



PANASONIC INTRODUCES THE PALMCORDER™ WITH A COLOR VIEWFINDER, BECAUSE LIFE DOESN'T HAPPEN IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Panasonic introduces the Palmcorder Camcorder with a color viewfinder. It makes ordinary camcorders seem old and gray.

A rainbow. A sunset. A blushing bride. These are just a few of the things you can miss when you look at life through an ordinary camcorder's black and white viewfinder.

Panasonic Palmcorder with color viewfinder.

Now, Panasonic introduces the Palmcorder Camcorder with a color viewfinder, PV-IQ503. It gives you a full 96,600 color picture elements so you can see the world in full color.

While the color viewfinder makes it easy to see what you're shooting, it's also easy to use because this Palmcorder is one of the new IQ Series camcorders. It lets you concentrate on your subject, not on complex buttons.

Panasonic compact VHS tapes record for up to 90 mins.

But most importantly, Palmcorder tapes play in all VHS recorders, thanks to its included PlayPak. So, it'll play in your VCR, your family's or your friends'. Which makes it easy to watch and share tapes.

The Panasonic Palmcorder Camcorder. Its viewfinder is color. Its tapes play in your VCR. The choice is obvious.

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The PlayPak lets you play your tapes in any VHS recorder. Yours, your family's and your friends'.

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HOTLANTA WESTERN DANCE STUDIO
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Al Messerschmidt

SUPER BOWL XXV

With the Gulf War dominating our thoughts, Warren Moon and his friend Minnie (left) tried to brighten spirits temporarily.

SUPER BOWL XXVI

Salsa queen Gloria Estefan (below) might have been out of her elements in Minneapolis, but she didn't seem to mind.

Rick Kolodziej

SUPER BOWL XXVII

Card stunts have been around as long as football, but last year's version (below) may never be equaled.

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JIM O'BRIEN
SUPER BOWL V

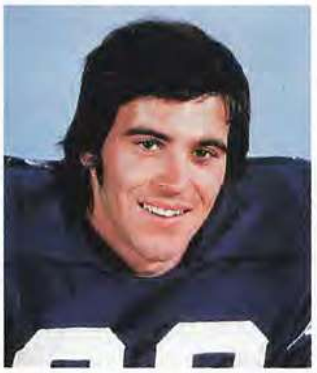
Super Bowl V between Baltimore and Dallas had come down to one play: one snap, one hold, one kick.

Jim O'Brien, the Colts' gangly 6-0, 195-pound rookie kicker, stood alone on the sidelines. The score was deadlocked at 13-13 and nine seconds were left on the clock. As O'Brien trotted onto the field, he knew that a successful 32-yard field goal was all that stood between immortality and infamy.

When his kick sailed through the uprights, Baltimore had a 16-13 victory and its first NFL championship since back-to-back title victories over the Giants in 1958 and 1959. On a day when nothing seemed to go right for either team, it was appropriate that O'Brien's heroics were set up by a turnover.

With 1:52 remaining in the game, Dallas was threatening with a first down at Baltimore's 48-yard line. But a sack and a 15-yard holding penalty moved the Cowboys back to their own 27. Facing second-and-35, Dallas quarterback Craig Morton attempted a pass to running back Dan Reeves. It was tipped into the hands of Colts linebacker Mike Curtis, who returned the ball to the Dallas 28. After two running plays, Baltimore summoned O'Brien.

The Super Bowl was a dream come true, literally, for O'Brien, the Colts' rookie.



Super Bowl V has been called the Blooper Bowl because it was marred by so many mistakes. The Cowboys and Colts committed a Super Bowl-record 11 turnovers (4 fumbles and 3 interceptions for Baltimore, 1 fumble and 3 interceptions for Dallas). The two teams also combined for 14 penalties for 164 yards.

O'Brien's earlier kicking attempts made the last-minute try anything but a certainty. Early in the second quarter, after a Colts' touchdown, his extra-point attempt was blocked, denying Baltimore a 7-6 lead. And with Dallas ahead 13-6 with 5:30 left in the third quarter, O'Brien missed a 52-yard field-goal try.

"Going into a big game like that you never know what to expect," says Miami Dolphins assistant coach John Sandusky, who was the Colts' offensive line coach in Super Bowl V. "I don't like the idea of it being called the Blooper Bowl. The game should be seen as two pretty darn good defenses making things happen. A turnover could be thought of as a mistake by the offense, but it should be thought of as a great play by the defense. You just hope the breaks fall your way. The way it turned out, the big break happened when Mike intercepted the ball. We got the ball in good field position and were able to kick the winning field goal."

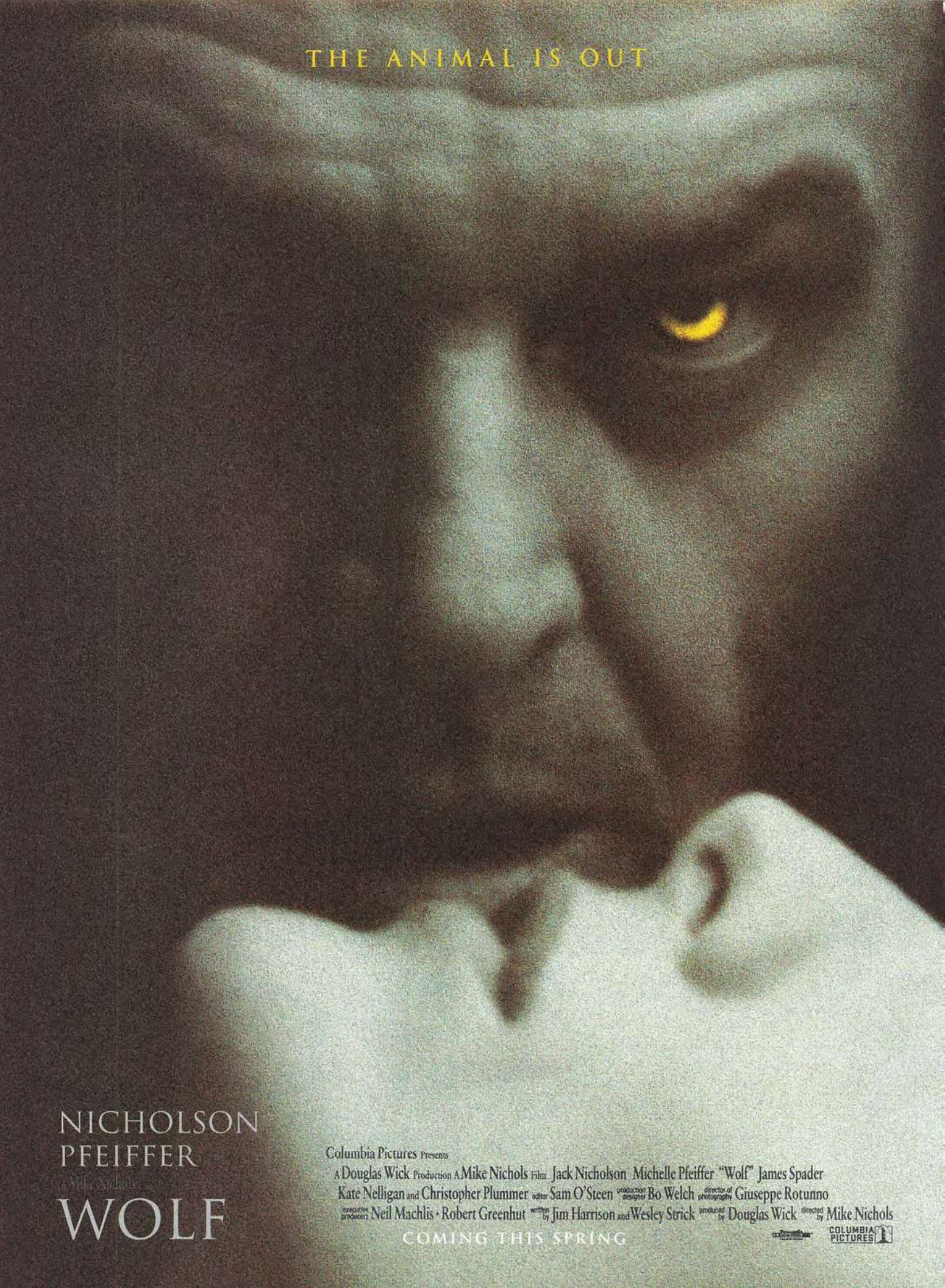
"One day during the week before the Super Bowl, I had a dream that somebody kicked a field goal to win the Super Bowl," O'Brien recalls. "But I didn't know if it was Mike Clark [the kicker for Dallas] or myself. As it turned out, a field goal *did* win the game. I was the lucky person who kicked it."

O'Brien wasn't the standard football player of the early 1970s. He was a jovial nonconformist who reflected the free-thinking attitudes of the times. O'Brien had long hair and was called "Lassie" and "Prince Valiant" by his teammates, coaches, and the media.

"Jim was one of the first guys who I remember coming out [of college] and doing their own thing," Sandusky says. "He was one of the early guys with long hair. He had a different lifestyle. He was one of the new-breed-type guys. But he was hard working, and he was a good kid."

O'Brien also was a versatile athlete who played *both* wide receiver and kicker at the Uni-

Dick Raphael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versity of Cincinnati and in the NFL. He led the NCAA in scoring as a kicker during his junior year in college. As a senior, he set an NCAA record by averaging 22 yards per catch. During his NFL career, he caught 14 passes for 305 yards and 2 touchdowns.

O'Brien struggled as a kicker during his four years in the NFL (1970-72 with the Colts and 1973 with the Lions). In 1970, he converted just 56 percent of his field-goal attempts (19 of 34). His best season was 1971, when he made 20 of 29 (69 percent). However, O'Brien did develop a reputation as a clutch performer. In his first game with Baltimore, he kicked 3 field goals against San Diego, including a 28-yard game-winner with 28 seconds remaining.

"Because I practiced so few minutes in a day compared to other kickers, I always pretended like I was kicking a game-winning field goal," O'Brien says. "I always tried to put a little more pressure on myself so that I would be able to kick in tough situations. I had kicked several [game-winning field goals] in college, and several in the pros our Super Bowl year. I probably was better at kicking game-winning field goals than field goals with no pressure attached."

Today O'Brien sells managed health care to self-insured companies and lives with his wife Pam in Thousand Oaks, California. They have two sons, Kelly and Kasey, who both play golf, tennis, and field hockey—but not football.

"The fact that I got to make that one kick makes my career a success," O'Brien says. "Yes, it could have lasted longer. I could have practiced harder in the offseason and lifted weights. I could have done a lot of the stuff other guys probably did, but for me, my career was a success. It was four years more than most people get. I enjoyed my career and liked the competition. But there were other things to life than just playing football."

—Brian Peterson

Howard's End

Tony Tomsic

Cowboys wide receiver Percy Howard nearly became the unlikeliest of all Super Bowl heroes.

After Pittsburgh had taken a seemingly comfortable 21-10 lead on Terry Bradshaw's 64-yard touchdown pass to Lynn Swann with 3:02 left in Super Bowl X, Dallas countered with an 80-yard touchdown drive, capped by Roger Staubach's 34-yard touchdown pass to Howard with 1:48 remaining.

Howard, who had not caught a pass during the regular season, was in the game because starting wide receiver Golden Richards was injured.

Still trailing by 4, the Cowboys tried an onside kick, which failed. But the Steelers couldn't move, and rather than risk a blocked punt, they ran on fourth-and-9. Dallas took over at its own 39-yard line.

Three plays, 23 yards, and 1 incompletion later, the Cowboys had the ball at Pittsburgh's 38 with 12 seconds to go.

Now Staubach looked Howard's way again. The Dallas quarterback, who had shocked defending NFC champion Minnesota with a 50-yard Hail Mary touchdown pass to Drew Pearson in the final minute of the first-round playoff game, heaved a throw toward Howard in the end zone. Surrounded by four Steelers, the former basketball player from Austin Peay couldn't come down with the rebound.

"I think if I jumped earlier I might have had a chance at it," Howard says.

The ball bounced away, and, with it, Howard's shot at being a hero.

Howard's football career was aborted by an injury in the 1976 preseason; his touchdown catch in Super Bowl X was the only reception of his NFL career.

—Jim Gigliotti

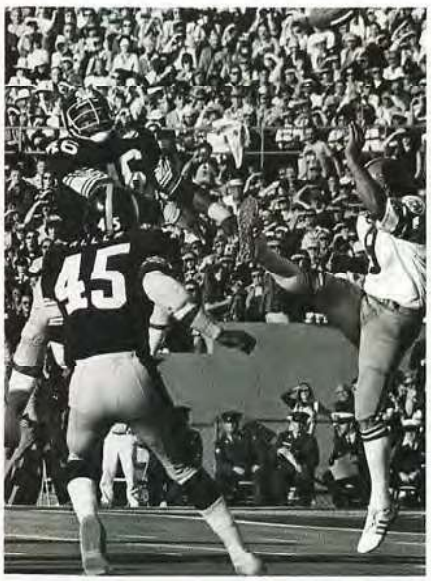
REGGIE HARRISON,
SUPER BOWL X

Early in the fourth quarter of Super Bowl X, with his team trailing Dallas 10-7, Pittsburgh's Reggie Harrison blocked a punt out of the end zone for a safety, trimming the deficit to 1 point. The Steelers scored on their next three possessions to build a 21-10 lead, then hung on to win 21-17 for the second of their four Super Bowl titles.

For some reason, however, Harrison's pivotal play seems to have been reduced to no more than a historical footnote.

Actually, there are a few obvious reasons. One is Lynn Swann, the Steelers' graceful, acrobatic wide receiver who was named the game's most valuable player after catching 4 passes for 161 yards (including the juggling, off-balance catch for 53 yards that's on everyone's list of Memorable Moments in the Super Bowl).

Another might be Terry Bradshaw, who hung in the pocket long enough to take a thundering hit from Cowboys defensive tackle Larry Cole in the fourth quarter—and long enough for Swann to break free for the 64-yard touchdown that provided the decisive points.



John Biever

Harrison's big play (above) was the talk of both locker rooms shortly after the game.

Or maybe it was the game itself—two heavyweights battling toe-to-toe in the ring, with the outcome in doubt until the final blow.

Indeed, Super Bowl X was perhaps the first that really captured the nation's imagination and propelled the annual event to the status it now enjoys.

There had been close games and upsets in the first decade of Super Bowls, but X helped the game emerge from its awkward adolescent years into full-grown adulthood.

These are images that have grown in stature over the last 18 years. But reaction soon after the final gun points to Harrison as the catalyst for Pittsburgh's victory at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida.

"The blocked punt changed the momentum," Dallas head coach Tom Landry said.

"It was the big play against us," said Cowboys linebacker Lee

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Roy Jordan. "We not only gave up two points, but it affected us emotionally."

"I could see the balloon collapsing right then," said defensive tackle Jethro Pugh.

For more than three quarters, Dallas's defense limited the Steelers to just a lone touchdown that came midway through the first quarter. Pittsburgh's next seven possessions resulted in 4 punts, 2 missed field-goal attempts, and a failed fourth-down conversion.

But Dallas couldn't muster much more. Roger Staubach's 29-yard touchdown pass to Drew Pearson less than five minutes into the game gave the Cowboys the early lead. The Steelers tied it on their next possession, but Dallas regained the lead on Tony Fritsch's 36-yard field goal in the first minute of the second quarter.

The Cowboys' started the fourth quarter at their own 19-yard line. A flea-flicker lost a yard, and Staubach was sacked at the 16 on third down. Less than 12 minutes remained.

"Time was a factor," Steelers head coach Chuck Noll says, "and I knew they had to go for a boomer to get good field position. It was time to go for the block."

The Steelers crowded the line with 10 men. Harrison lined up between the center and left guard and came up the middle.

"I thought I blocked it with my arms but my tongue was split down the middle. I think it hit me in the mouth," said Harrison, who made his mark on special teams while serving as Franco Harris's backup for the Steelers from 1974-77. He finished his career with Green Bay in 1978.

"When I went back to the bench, I didn't realize what happened. Then [reserve defensive back] Jimmy Allen told me, 'You turned the game around.'"

The ball had ricocheted out the back of the end zone to pull Pittsburgh to within 10-9. Mike Collier returned the ensuing free kick 25 yards to Dallas's 45, and it took the Steelers only seven plays to forge a 12-10 lead on Roy Gerela's 36-yard field goal.

Mike Wagner intercepted Staubach's next pass, which led to an 18-yard field goal by Gerela. And after the Cowboys went three plays and out on their next possession, Bradshaw teamed with Swann on the long touchdown pass. The extra-point try was no good, but it didn't matter. In less than 8½ minutes, the Steelers had scored 14 points the hard way: a safety, 2 field goals, and a touchdown.

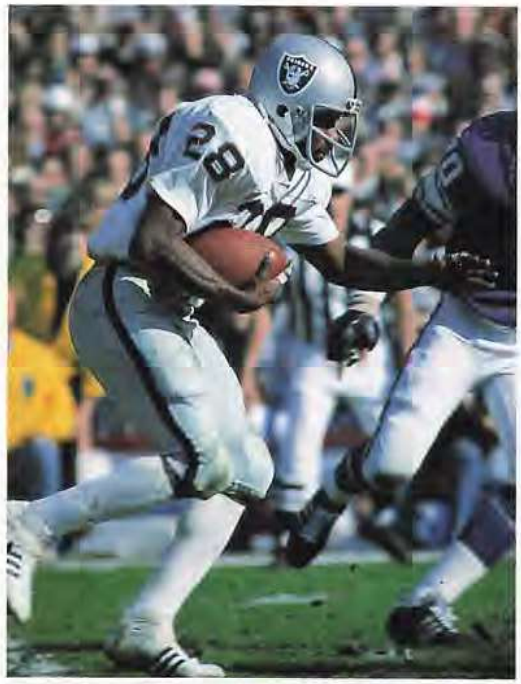
"The momentum changed with the blocked kick," Noll said.

That's no surprise. Pittsburgh's championship teams of the 1970s were an opportunistic group.

"The players just had the right attitude," Noll says today. "The offense would move the ball, but if it didn't, the defense would find a way to get it back. Or the kicking game would make the difference. In Super Bowl Ten, the blocked punt made the big difference."

In a game that featured the Steel Curtain, the Flex Defense, and more Pro Football Hall of Famers than you can count on two hands, Reggie Harrison emerged as the unlikely hero.

—Jim Gigliotti



Davis followed Upshaw and Shell and had a career-best 137 yards.

Malcolm Emmons

CLARENCE DAVIS
SUPER BOWL XI

It all was very familiar to Clarence Davis.

When the Oakland running back lined up near his own goal line late in the first quarter of a scoreless tie between the Raiders and the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI, he had a feeling he'd been there before.

Fact was, he had been there before.

It was seven years earlier, in the very same Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, playing for USC against Michigan on New Year's Day, 1970.

"Same type of play, same stadium, same area of the field, backed up near the end zone," Davis remembers.

The Trojans, protecting a seven-point lead late in the fourth quarter of that Rose Bowl game, were bottled up at their own 4-yard line, facing first-and-15.

"I went all the way, ninety-plus yards down the sideline, but they said I stepped out of bounds [he was credited with a 17-yard gain to the 21, and USC went on to win 10-3]. Unfortunately, I didn't go all the way in the Super Bowl, but I did get us out of that hole."

That hole was a third-and-7 at the 6-yard line, and these weren't college kids he was going up against. These were the Purple People Eaters, with Carl Eller, Jim Marshall, Alan Page, and Doug Sutherland.

Minnesota had gone 11-2-1 during the 1976 regular season and won its fourth consecutive NFC Central Division championship. The Vikings had an effective offense, led by quarterback Fran Tarkenton and running back Chuck Foreman, but it was an intimidating defense that took them to their fourth Super Bowl in eight years.

Intimidating to most, that is. Intimidating the Raiders is another story. The Frankenstein monster doesn't throw much of a scare into Godzilla.

"Minnesota is a vanilla team," Raiders guard Gene Upshaw said after the game. "They play a four-man front and they never change. They line up and here's Jim Marshall and here's Alan Page and you know right where they are going to be. They say, 'Here we are, come and get us.'"

R.H. Stagg

Oakland head coach John Madden was a bit more diplomatic.

"The thing you have to guard against with them is getting into a pattern," he said. "You have to mix up the formations. You have to run on passing downs and pass in running situations."

This was a passing situation. Instead, Davis took a handoff, broke left behind Upshaw and tackle Art Shell, and rambled 35 yards down the left sideline with Madden urging him on.

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The play worked so well the Raiders went to it again and again.

Davis thus was cast in the role of the featured back—and this was unfamiliar to him. He played eight seasons in Oakland and ran for more than 3,600 yards, but he never led the Raiders in rushing. Instead, much of his career was played in the shadow of fullbacks Marv Hubbard and Mark van Eeghen in Oakland's backfield.

"Normally I would be blocking for van Eeghen like he did for me in Super Bowl XI," Davis says. "The results I got that day were the results he was getting all year."

Davis had run for 516 yards during the regular season; van Eeghen 1,012.

But Davis gained a career-high 137 yards in Super Bowl XI, and more than 100 of them came on variations of the same play: Upshaw and Shell cleared out Marshall and Page (Marshall did not have a single tackle or assist), and van Eeghen sealed off linebacker Wally Hilgenberg.

The 35-yard run in the first quarter gave the Raiders some breathing room, and they reached Minnesota's 7-yard line before the drive stalled. Errol Mann kicked a 24-yard field goal to give Oakland a lead it would not relinquish.

Davis had 11 carries for 86 yards by halftime, and Oakland led 16-0. Seven of the carries and 67 of the yards had come behind the left side of the line.

"It's a testimony to that line," Davis says. "I just went out and had some fun."

With the game comfortably in hand, Davis carried only 5 times in the second half, but that included runs of 13, 18, and 16 yards. He averaged 8.6 yards on his 16 attempts in the game.

"I'm not much for keeping up with statistics, but I know I finished with 137 yards," Davis says. "I can tell you that because this game really stands out for me. We were playing near home [born in Birmingham, Alabama, he grew up in Los Angeles], and the majority of my family and friends were there."

In addition to his prolific rushing day, Davis threw key blocks on both of Pete Banaszak's short touchdown runs that helped break open Oakland's 32-14 rout.

Davis had a hand in each of the Raiders' scoring drives (their last touchdown came on Willie Brown's 75-yard interception return), but wide receiver Fred Biletnikoff was named the game's most valuable player after 3 of his 4 catches had set up Oakland touchdowns.

No matter.

"You have to have an MVP," philosophizes Davis.

"It was a great day to have a game like that. It meant a lot to me to be able to contribute."

—Jim Gigliotti

LARRY ANDERSON

SUPER BOWL XIV

Larry Anderson knew exactly what he wanted.

The Steelers' return specialist wanted to take the opening kickoff of Super Bowl XIV against the Los Angeles Rams at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. He wanted to return it for a touchdown. Then Pittsburgh would go on to win its fourth Super Bowl title, and he'd be named the game's most valuable player.

Anderson knew there was a car waiting for the MVP, plus commercial endorsements. But he also knew he wasn't going to get all that on the few plays he'd be in the game as a defensive back. He'd have to open some eyes with his returns.

So before Steelers owner Art Rooney was escorted to midfield for the coin toss, before the military jets buzzed the Rose Bowl with their dramatic flyby, before actress Cheryl Ladd sang the National Anthem, Anderson went to team captain Joe Greene.

"Get me the ball," Anderson told him.

"I always did that," he says now. "I wanted us to win the toss and get the ball first. I wanted to do something to get things started on a positive note. I knew a big return would do that."

Trouble was, on this day, it wasn't Greene's call, and it wasn't Rooney's—it was the Rams'. They called for the ball. Anderson would have to wait for his chance.

That was nothing new for him.

Anderson, arriving in Pittsburgh as a fourth-round draft choice one year earlier, figured he'd have to find a way to make a name.

After all, the Steelers already had future Pro Football Hall of Fame members Terry Bradshaw, Mel Blount, Joe Greene, Franco Harris, and Jack Lambert grabbing headlines. They also had Mike Webster, Lynn Swann, John Stallworth, and Rocky Bleier.

Andy Hayt

On a team of stars, Anderson's only chance for acclaim was on kickoff returns.

When Anderson had joined the team, the Steelers already had two Vince Lombardi Trophies signifying Super Bowl victories.

"As everyone knows, those Steelers teams were loaded with talent," Anderson says. "With that, there wasn't enough room for recognition for everybody. No matter what you did, you weren't going to get the attention some others did. So I always felt I had to prove to other players and coaches what I could do, to gain their confidence in me and my abilities. I did that by returning kicks."

And what better arena to do it in than the Super Bowl.

If people didn't know who Larry Anderson was before the Steelers played the Rams in Super Bowl XIV, Anderson would make sure they knew after.

His first chance came late in the opening quarter, after the Rams' Cullen Bryant had capped a 59-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run to give his team a 7-3 lead. Anderson went back to return the kick in the same frame of mind he always had.

"Every time, my goal was to return the kick for a touchdown," he says. He did that once—a 95-yard return against Cleveland in his rookie season. That play came with Pittsburgh trailing by a point late in the first half, and it sparked the Steelers to a victory.

This return provided a similar spark. He went 45 yards before he was driven out of bounds by Joe Harris at Pittsburgh's 47-yard line. It took the Steelers nine plays to negotiate the remaining 53 yards and regain the lead.

Anderson had 38- and 32-yard returns in the second quarter, each after a Rams field goal.

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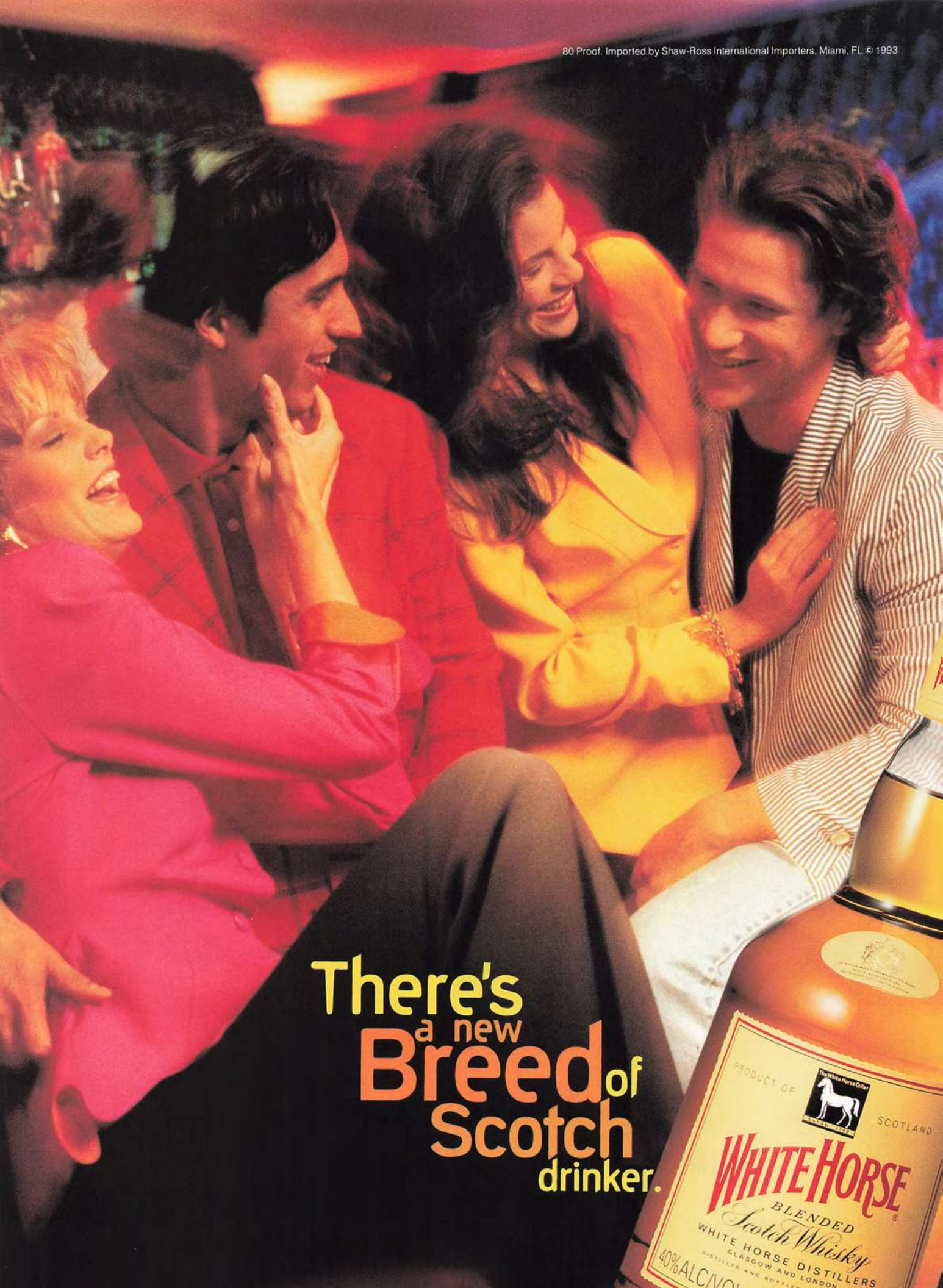
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he says. "I think it showed our real strength, which was that we were strong in all areas—offense, defense, and special teams."

At halftime, the underdog Rams held a surprising 13-10 advantage. But Anderson swayed the momentum again. His 37-yard return of the second-half kickoff gave Pittsburgh good field position, at its own 39. Five plays later, Bradshaw teamed with Swann on a 47-yard touchdown pass, and the Steelers were back in front.

"Those returns added to the excitement of the game, gave us the feeling that as a team we were going to do whatever it takes to win," Anderson says.

Indeed, the Steelers did win, 31-19, clinching their fourth title by scoring a pair of fourth-quarter touchdowns.

Bradshaw threw a 73-yard scoring pass to Stallworth and set up Franco Harris's 1-yard run in the final two minutes when he teamed with Stallworth again on a 45-yard completion.

Bradshaw was named MVP of the game for the second year in a row, though afterwards he demurred.

"If you ask me, the kicking game was the key to victory," he said. "The returns were the best I've seen since coming to the Steelers."

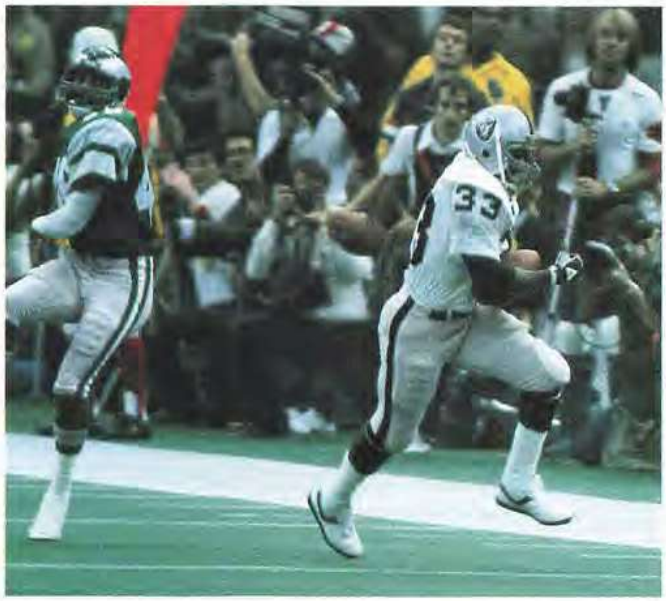
Anderson would have been an excellent choice for the MVP, Bradshaw offered.

Anderson finished the day with 5 returns for 162 yards and a 32.4-yard average, all Super Bowl records at the time. He played four years in Pittsburgh, then spent three seasons with the Colts. He's a special education teacher in Shreveport, Louisiana, today, as well as a football and track coach.

"The funny thing is, I get more fan mail now than I ever did," he says. "They send their stuff to Three Rivers Stadium and it's forwarded to me."

You may not speak his name in the same breath as Bradshaw, Harris, or Swann—but Larry Anderson made a name for himself in Super Bowl XIV.

—Jim Gigliotti



Peter Read Miller

Ingenuity turned a broken play into an 80-yard touchdown (above) for King and the Raiders.

Russ Reed

KENNY KING

SUPER BOWL XV

Super Bowl XV, right?"

That's what people ask about when they are introduced to Kenny King. They may not recognize the face or know the voice, but they definitely are familiar with the name.

Kenny King had an excellent college career at Oklahoma. A third-round draft choice of the Houston Oilers in 1979, he spent six productive seasons with the Raiders (1980-85).

But at Oklahoma, King blocked for the likes of Billy Sims and Thomas Lott. The Oilers had Earl Campbell. And the Raiders... well, they were the Raiders.

They were Jim Plunkett and Cliff Branch, Ted Hendricks and John Matuszak, Gene Upshaw and Art Shell. They were Al Davis and a colorful team that made almost as many headlines off the field as they did on it.

Kenny King was just a guy who ran the football well, blocked better, and even learned to catch some passes—something he never had use for at Oklahoma, but which would come in handy in Super Bowl XV.

The fact that King even was playing in a Super Bowl was a longshot, at least as it appeared at the close of the 1979 season. He was the sixth back on a six-back team in Houston, and he carried the football only 3 times all year.

Then the Oilers called him on draft day, 1980.

"I had contemplated retiring at the end of the 1979 season," King says. "I thought I'd go back to school to finish my degree.

"When [Houston head coach] Bum Phillips called me and told me I had been traded to the Raiders, my whole life turned around."

The rejuvenated King ran for 761 yards, caught 22 passes, and was named to the Pro Bowl in 1980. He helped Oakland rebound from a 2-3 start to reach the playoffs with an 11-5 record. Three weeks later, the Raiders became the second wild-card team since the AFL-NFL merger to reach the Super Bowl.

Their opponent was the Eagles, a team that had beaten them 10-7 in Philadelphia two months earlier by sacking quarterback Jim Plunkett 8 times.

"After that game I saw [Eagles linebacker] Jerry Robinson, and I told him, 'See you in the Super Bowl,'" King says. "He said, 'I sure hope so.'"

As it turns out, the two were principal participants on the game's pivotal play.

The Raiders led 7-0 on Plunkett's 2-yard touchdown pass to Branch six minutes into the game. They were faced with a third-and-4 situation at their own 20-yard line in the final minute of the opening quarter when Plunkett dropped back to pass.

"I was just supposed to run a little flat pattern, a seven-yard out," King says.

But when Plunkett was pressured up the middle by defensive end Carl Hairston and around the back side by Robinson, the quarterback started scrambling.

"It was a broken play," King says. "But I remembered something Gene Upshaw said before the game: 'Don't stop until the play is over.' So I started backing up."

King found a seam in the Eagles' zone, behind cornerback Herman Edwards.

"I was looking for [Bob] Chandler on the play," Plunkett says. "I had to scramble when Chandler was covered, and that's when I

spotted Kenny waving his arms at the thirty-nine-yard line."

Plunkett floated a pass just over the flailing reach of Edwards and to the right of King. The ex-Wishbone fullback did a half-pirouette and came down with the ball.

"Edwards was the guy who was covering me," King says. "He thought Robinson was going to get the sack, but Jim just dumped it into my arms."

The rest was easy. With wide receiver Chandler providing escort, King raced down the left sideline to complete the 80-yard touchdown, still the longest play from scrimmage in Super Bowl history (the Redskins also had an 80-yard touchdown pass in Super Bowl XXII).

Philadelphia wasn't the same after that. Forced to play catch-up, quarterback Ron Jaworski threw 3 interceptions.

Plunkett was named the most valuable player after completing 13 of 21 passes for 261 yards and 3 touchdowns.

King caught an additional pass, and it was another important one: a screen that he turned into a 13-yard gain on second-and-12 early in the third quarter. That kept alive a 76-yard touchdown drive that effectively put the game out of reach at 21-3.

But it's the 80-yard touchdown that people remember.

"I look at myself as a good back who got the opportunity to show what he can do," King says. "At Oklahoma, I was in a situation where I didn't get any recognition. I played with some great, great athletes. But I was the fullback, and the fullback in a Wishbone offense is not going to be the leading ground-gainer.

"When the Oilers drafted me, I felt it was time for me to show what I could do. But I didn't want to be just a special-teams player there. I knew I was capable of more than that.

"The trade to Oakland was a steppingstone for me. It was a chance to be a premier back in a premier organization. They wanted me, and I wanted to be there. This game was my moment. My time finally had come to reality."

—Jim Gigliotti

DAN BUNZ

SUPER BOWL XVI

From the first time he steps onto a football field, a defensive player is taught how to tackle. Championships are won by teams that play great defense and make big hits.

Never was that more evident than in Super Bowl XVI when 49ers reserve linebacker Dan Bunz made a perfect tackle on Bengals running back Charles Alexander. That tackle helped propel San Francisco to its first NFL title.

Trailing 20-7 near the end of the third quarter and facing a crucial third-and-goal from the 49ers' 1-yard line, Cincinnati desperately needed a score.

Alexander flared out of the backfield and had to reach back to catch a screen pass from quarterback Ken Anderson. As the 6-1, 220-pound Alexander turned to make the reception, the 6-4, 235-pound Bunz drove his facemask into Alexander's chest, lifted the running back into the air, and slammed him to the turf. Not even Alexander's pinky finger had crossed the line of scrimmage.

"I try to teach kids that it's all leverage," Bunz explains. "If you get down under a person, they're not going anywhere. It's just like karate. You never try to stop a force head on; you try to deflect it."

"It was as good a defensive play as I've ever seen," says Chuck Studley, who was the 49ers' defensive coordinator at the time. "I'll never forget it."

The Bengals had moved the ball successfully all day (Cincinnati outgained San Francisco 356 yards to 275), but three turnovers had helped the 49ers to a 20-0 lead at halftime. Cincinnati scored at the outset of the third quarter, and threatened again two series later.

The Bengals had a first down at the 49ers' 3-yard line, and 250-pound running back Pete Johnson was ready to rumble when Studley summoned his goal-line defense.

On Cincinnati's first play, Johnson advanced to the 49ers' 1. John Choma, a little-used offensive guard who played defensive tackle in goal-line situations, grabbed Johnson by the ankle, and Bunz made a crunching hit to keep him from plunging forward. The stop was all the more remarkable in that San Francisco had only 10 men on the field.

Vernon Biever

"That play seemed like a lifetime." Bunz becomes a 49ers hero with a one-on-one tackle of Alexander.

Second down again featured Johnson, but Bunz smashed into Alexander, the lead blocker, and closed the hole, giving linebacker Jack Reynolds a solid shot at Johnson. With no gain on that play, the stage was set for Bunz's tackle on Alexander.

The decision to go for a touchdown was almost automatic. Only three plays before, the Bengals had handed off to Johnson to convert a fourth-and-1 at the 49ers' 5. As expected, Johnson again took the handoff and followed Alexander into the right side of the offensive line, but this time he was met by the entire 49ers' defense. Cincinnati limped off the field, and the jubilant 49ers eventually won the game 26-21.

"Short yardage is a mental attitude," Bunz says. "That play [on third down] seemed like a lifetime. I was sprinting toward Alexander and I thought, 'Step forward.' I was right there. It was probably the best you could play it, but I was mad after the tackle. Everyone was screaming and patting me on the back, but I'm thinking that they gained a half foot."

Michael Zagaris

"You don't even expect the best of players to make a play like that on the goal line," Studley says. "It's just incomprehensible that you're going to hit a 220-pound halfback who can run like the wind, and hit him flush enough that when he catches the ball on the one-yard line, he doesn't just fall into the end zone."

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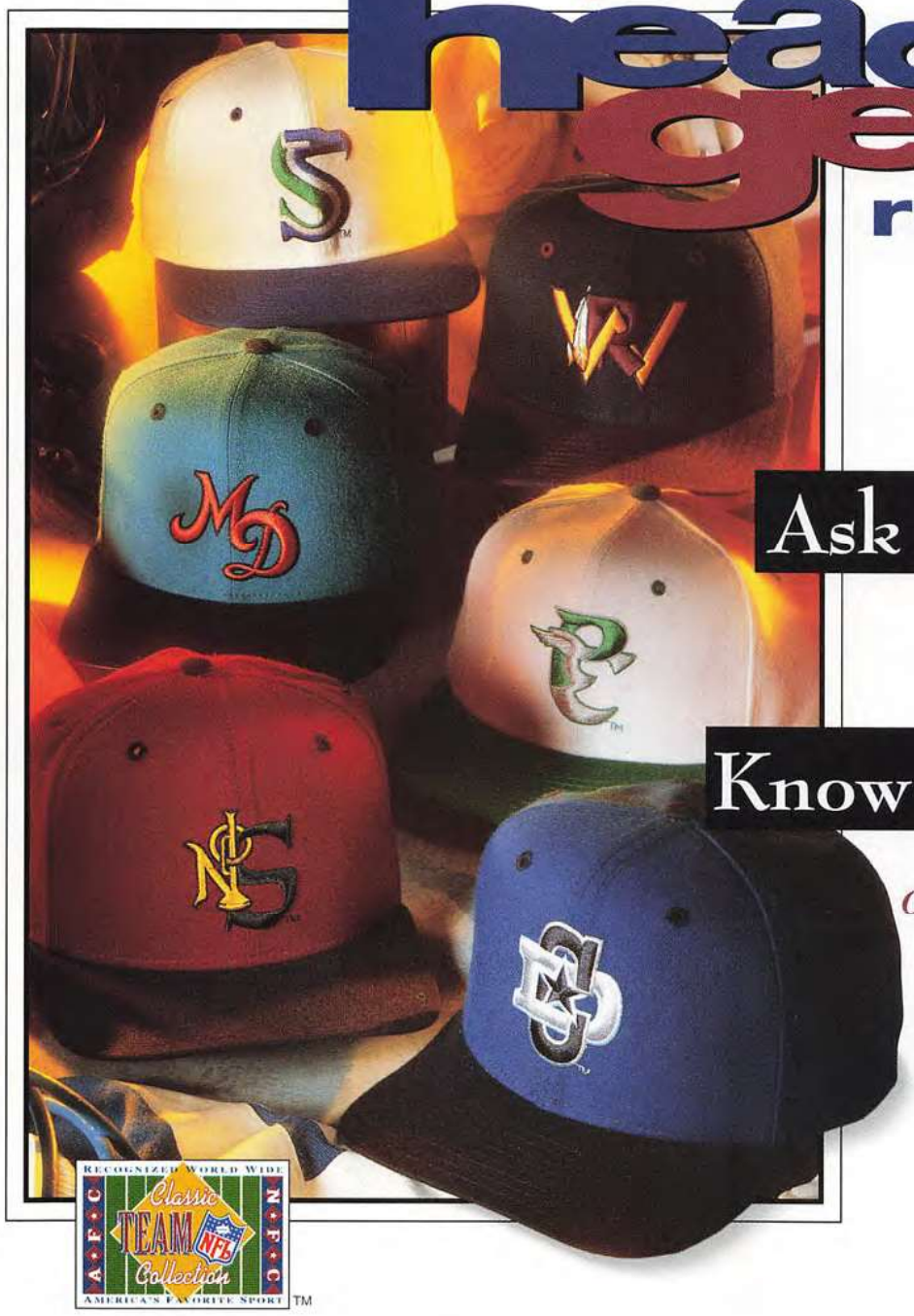

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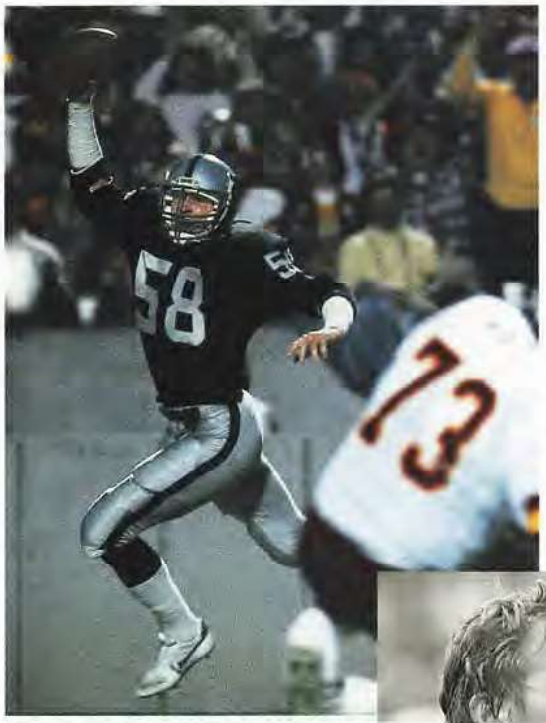
Bunz, a first-round draft choice in 1978, started every game as a rookie and led the team with 135 tackles. When Bill Walsh took over as head coach in 1979, Bunz saw his playing time gradually diminish. He still led the team in tackles in 1979 and 1980, but he had only eight starts in the Super Bowl season, giving way to rookie Craig Puki. Bunz, who played seven NFL seasons, finished his career with Detroit in 1985.

"Danny was a run stopper," Studley says. "He was a thumper. So as we got into an era of specialization in defensive football, guys like him were used less and less all the time. But that play was typical of Danny Bunz. He wasn't a flashy type of player, but when you needed him most, that seemed to be the time when he made the biggest play."

Just playing for the 49ers had made Bunz a celebrity in Roseville, California, where he grew up. But after his inspiring play in Super Bowl XVI, both his birthplace (Roseville) and home (Rocklin, California) had a "Dan Bunz Day." Bunz, his wife Liz, and daughters Courtney and Ashley still reside in northern California. Liz has her own dental practice; Dan runs a restaurant called Bunz and Company.



John Biever

Thanks to his coach's hunch, Squirek was able to foil the "Rocket Screen" and coast for an easy score.

"Nobody said a whole lot to me after the game," Bunz recalls. "One guy did come up to me. It was Hacksaw [Reynolds] and he said, 'That was a great play and you'll never be forgotten for it.'

"I responded sarcastically: 'Yeah, right!'

"But he said again, 'No, you made your mark. You are never going to be forgotten. You played great!'

"He was a linebacker, and he had been around long enough that he knew what it [making a great play in the Super Bowl] meant."

—Brian Peterson

JACK SQUIREK
SUPER BOWL XVIII

Matt Millen was screaming at linebackers coach Charlie Sumner. Millen, a starter at linebacker for the Raiders, couldn't understand why he had been removed from the biggest game of his life—Super Bowl XVIII—in a situation that really didn't seem to warrant any special substitutions.

The Raiders had a 14-3 lead against high-scoring Washington, and the Redskins had the ball on their own 12-yard line with only 12 seconds remaining in the first half. Sumner, who selected defensive alignments for the Raiders, initially had called for a basic prevent zone.

"I looked to the sideline and Charlie was motioning for me to get off the field," Millen says. "I went to the side and said, 'What the heck are you doing?' I was irate. All he said was, 'I've got a hunch.'"

Millen's replacement was Jack Squirek, a little-used pass-coverage specialist who performed mainly on special teams. Squirek, a second-year player, had seen action in all 16 games in 1983—in his only start, he recorded a team-high 10 tackles against Kansas City—but it was odd to insert him for Millen, a team leader.

While Millen may have thought he was being treated unjustly, Sumner's "hunch" can be traced to week 5 of the regular season when Washington had raced to a 20-7 lead, then had to overcome a 35-20 fourth-quarter deficit to defeat the Raiders 37-35. It is considered one of the greatest games in NFL history.

One particular play in that duel had ignited the Redskins' furious comeback. With 7:31 remaining in the game, Washington had the ball on its own 12-yard line when head coach Joe Gibbs surprised the Raiders by calling a "Rocket Screen" to running back Joe Washington. Washington raced 63 yards on the play to set up a touchdown that helped send the Redskins to victory.

Miguel Elliot

As the Redskins lined up in Super Bowl XVIII, presumably satisfied to run out the clock before halftime, the bitter memory of that 63-yard screen pass flashed into Sumner's mind. There wasn't time to send in a new defense, so Sumner called for Squirek and told him to forget his normal assignment and cover Joe Washington one-on-one.

The coach's hunch was a stroke of genius. As Washington flared out for the screen pass, Raiders defensive end Lyle Alzado knocked him off course, then pressured quarterback Joe Theismann. Theismann passed off the wrong foot and threw the ball into the waiting arms of Squirek, who dashed 5 yards for a touchdown that gave the Raiders a 21-3 halftime margin, en route to a 38-9 victory.

"We knew something was up," says Squirek. "He [Sumner] told me to play man-for-man with Washington. He said, 'If he catches a pass, don't let him make a large gain. Whatever you do, don't go for the interception, miss the pass, and let him gain a lot of yardage.'

"Fortunately, I did go for the interception, and everything turned out all right."

"Right before the play started," Sumner says, "Millen and I were having a few unpleasantries because he said that I embarrassed him by taking him out of the game on national TV. Two minutes later, Matt was hugging and kissing me."

Who would have guessed that the unknown Squirek would play such a pivotal role? "I think I had only two media interviews the week before the game—my college and hometown newspapers," Squirek says.

Squirek hadn't scored a touchdown since his senior year in high school. And if Squirek was an unlikely hero, he was an even more unlikely Raider. Shy and quiet, the 6-4, 235-pound athlete was a far cry from the outrageous rogue image of the Raiders.

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"Squirek was physically gifted, and he did a lot of things," Millen says, "so it [the interception] wasn't a surprise. He was a big kid, but he was quiet and very reserved. In the locker room after the Super Bowl, he still had big, wide eyes, even after he scored the touchdown and received a little notoriety."

Squirek's Raiders career spanned only four seasons (1982-85). His best season was 1984, when he played in 12 games and started the final eight. After playing in all 16 games for the Raiders in 1985, he was released. He signed as a free agent with Miami in 1986, but played in only two games.

Today, Squirek is the owner of Pro Team Carpet Clean in Cleveland, Ohio, where he lives with his wife Penny, and 2-year-old son, Jacob. There is a trace of disappointment in his voice when he reflects on his short stay in the NFL, but he'll always have his one shining moment in the Super Bowl.

"They can never take that away from me," he says.

—Brian Peterson

TIMMY SMITH
SUPER BOWL XXII

Washington attacked on the ground and through the air. It seemed as if the offensive onslaught never would end. When the smoke had cleared after the historic second quarter of Super Bowl XXII, the Redskins held a commanding 35-10 lead over the beleaguered Broncos.

The Broncos, who had led 10-0 after the first quarter, didn't know what hit them. The Redskins had scored a Super Bowl-record 35 points and amassed an amazing 356 yards in 15 minutes of play.

Veteran quarterback Doug Williams threw 4 touchdown passes before halftime. And Timmy Smith, an unheralded rookie who was making his first NFL start, had 122 rushing yards, including a 58-yard scoring run.

Two questions often asked of Smith: Where did he come from? And where did he go?

The second half was just a formality in the Redskins' 42-10 victory. Smith finished with a Super Bowl-record 204 rushing yards to become an overnight celebrity. Who could have guessed he would run past Marcus Allen, John Riggins, Franco Harris, and Larry Csonka in the Super Bowl record book? His best pro game until then had been 72 yards against Minnesota in the NFC Championship Game two weeks earlier.

"All I know is that I went into the Super Bowl with all the confidence in the world," says the 5-11, 222-pound Smith. "I put in a lot of preparation, concentrating on my plays and making sure I was not going the wrong way. I just ran hard."

"Smith wasn't awed by it," Redskins running backs coach Don Breaux says of the Super Bowl appearance. "He was loose and had really good practices. I remember the bus ride from the hotel to the stadium on game day. When we got near the site of the Super Bowl, there was a tremendous amount of traffic and people. Timmy stood up, looked around, and began smiling. He saw all the people and the traffic, but he wasn't uptight. Timmy was a fun-loving guy, and that was something in his favor."

Smith started the game in place of injured George Rogers, the team's leading rusher in the regular season. However, the Redskins' coaches didn't tell Smith about the starting assignment until the pregame warmups because they didn't want him to dwell on it.

"They all felt that since I was a rookie I couldn't handle the pressure that the Super Bowl brings," Smith says. "They were afraid I'd freeze up and not produce the way I was capable of doing. When they gave me the opportunity, I felt like it was my time to show everyone what I could do and not let the pressure get to me."

The Redskins' offensive line, which averaged 6-4 and 278 pounds, played a major role in Smith's success. "The Hogs," as they were called, included three Pro Bowl players—left tackle Joe Jacoby, center Jeff Bostic, and right guard R.C. Thielemann.

"I had the right guys in front of me," Smith says. "There were big holes. All I had to do was outrun the defensive backs because our line was eliminating the defensive linemen and linebackers. Getting past the line is what running backs dream about."

After his amazing performance in Super Bowl XXII, great things were expected from Smith. He seemed to be fulfilling that promise at the beginning of the 1988 season. He gained 100 yards against the Giants in week 1, and two weeks later against the Eagles he had a career-high 31 carries for 107 yards. But then the bottom fell out. He finished the season with only 470 rushing yards and left the Redskins as a Plan B free agent at the end of the year. Smith signed with San Diego in 1989, but was released after a few months. His last stop in the NFL was a short stay with the Cowboys in '89.

Manny Rubio

"We thought, 'Hey, this [Smith's Super Bowl performance] is going to be something he can certainly use as a springboard to a good career in the NFL," recalls Breaux. "Unfortunately, that didn't happen."

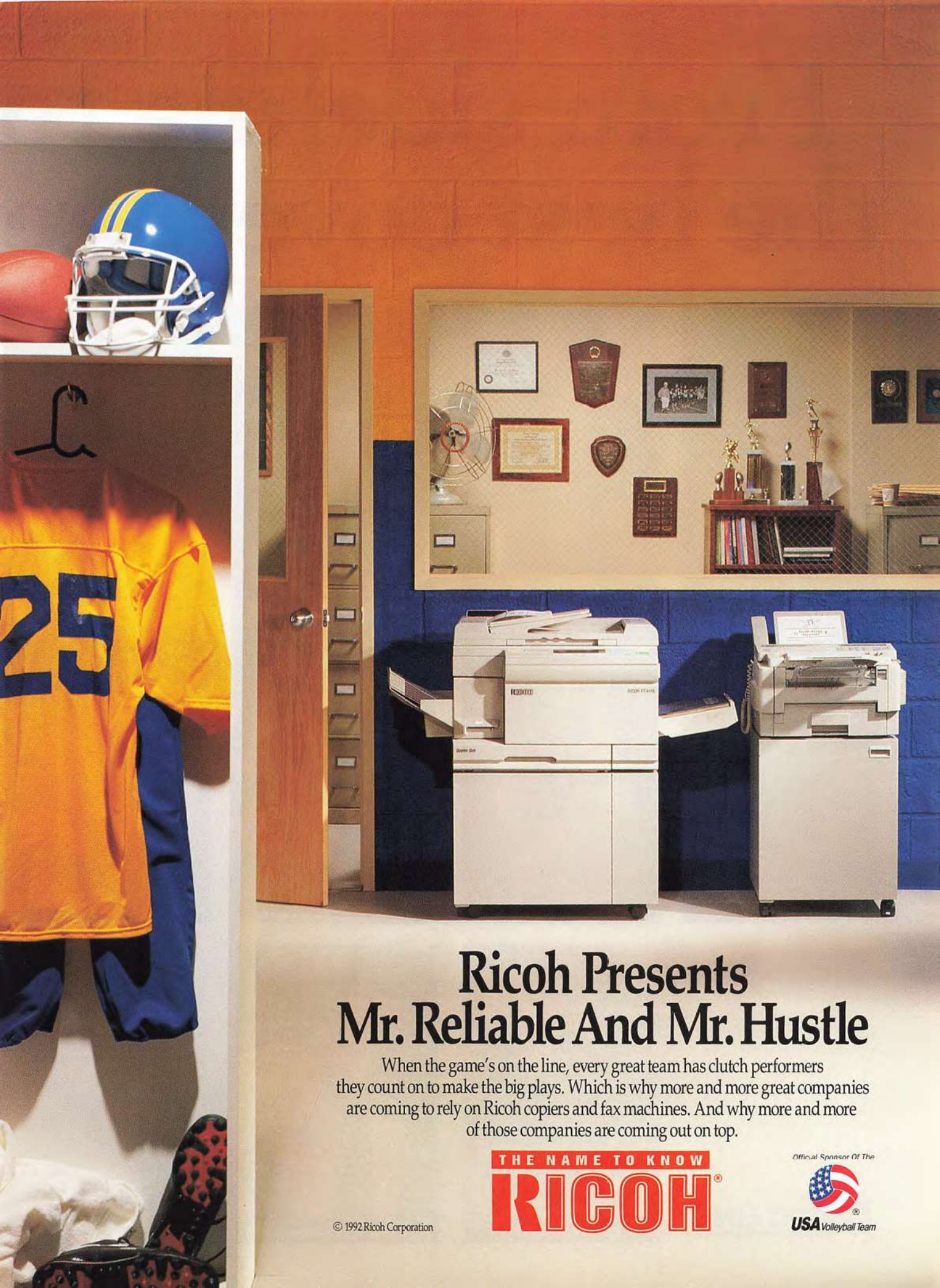
"The Super Bowl helped me and hurt me," Smith says. "It helped me as far as getting recognition, but no matter where I went, I was expected to get 204 yards or something in that range."

But don't think that Smith doesn't cherish his glorious play in the Super Bowl. "It was a shock to me to get an opportunity to play in a Super Bowl because there are guys who play ten or eleven years in the league and don't come close to making it. I had a dream come true in my first year."

Smith, who lives in Denver, doesn't wear his Super Bowl ring. He thinks it's inappropriate to flash it around a city that would like to forget the humbling defeat it signifies for the Broncos. The ring is in a safe deposit box at a bank in his hometown of Hobbs, New Mexico.

—Brian Peterson

Michael Zagaris



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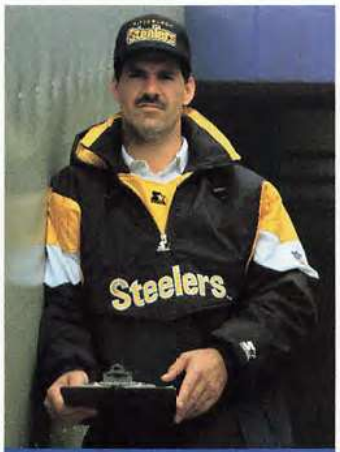

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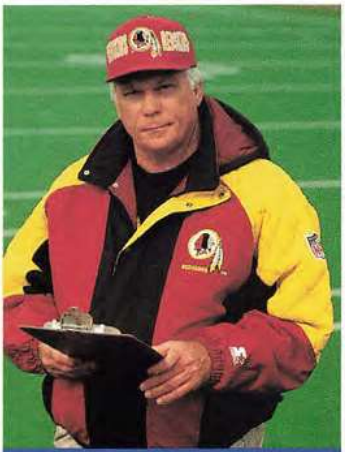
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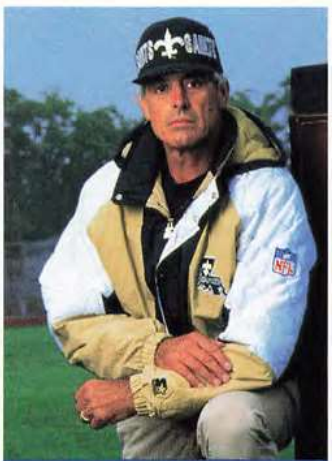
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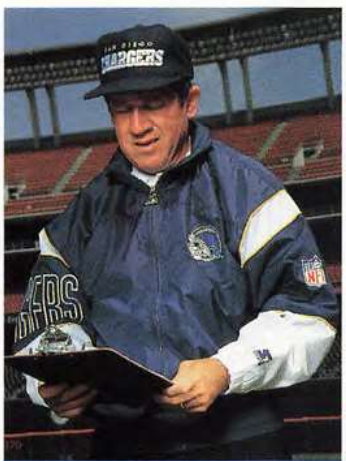
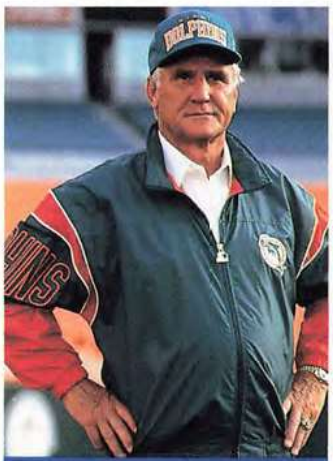


Bobby Ross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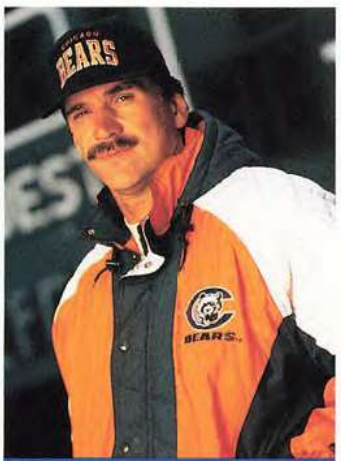

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Super Bowl I
January 15, 1967
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Green Bay (NFL) 35,
Kansas City (AFL) 10
MVP: *Packers QB Bart Starr*

Super Bowl II
January 14, 1968
Orange Bowl, Miami
Green Bay (NFL) 33,
Oakland (AFL) 14
MVP: *Packers QB Bart Starr*

Super Bowl III
January 12, 1969
Orange Bowl, Miami
New York Jets (AFL) 16,
Baltimore (NFL) 7
MVP: *Jets QB Joe Namath*

Super Bowl IV
January 11, 1970
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Kansas City (AFL) 23,
Minnesota (NFL) 7
MVP: *Chiefs QB Len Dawson*

Super Bowl V
January 17, 1971
Orange Bowl, Miami
Baltimore (AFL) 16,
Dallas (NFL) 13
MVP: *Cowboys LB Chuck Howley*

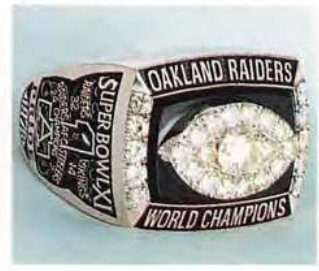
Super Bowl VI
January 16, 1972
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Dallas (NFL) 24,
Miami (AFL) 3
MVP: *Cowboys QB Roger Staubach*

Super Bowl VII
January 14, 1973
Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles
Miami (AFL) 14,
Washington (NFL) 7
MVP: *Dolphins S Jake Scott*

Super Bowl VIII
January 13, 1974
Rice Stadium, Houston
Miami (AFL) 24,
Minnesota (NFL) 7
MVP: *Dolphins RB Larry Csonka*

Super Bowl IX
January 12, 1975
Tulane Stadium, New Orleans
Pittsburgh (AFL) 16,
Minnesota (NFL) 6
MVP: *Steelers RB Franco Harris*

Super Bowl X
January 18, 1976
Orange Bowl, Miami
Pittsburgh (AFL) 21,
Dallas (NFL) 17
MVP: *Steelers WR Lynn Swann*



Super Bowl XI
January 9, 1977
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Oakland (AFC) 32,
Minnesota (NFC) 14
MVP: *Raiders WR Fred Biletnikoff*

Super Bowl XII
January 15, 1978
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Dallas (NFC) 27,
Denver (AFC) 10
MVPs: *Cowboys DE Harvey Martin and DT Randy White*

Super Bowl XIII
January 21, 1979
Orange Bowl, Miami
Pittsburgh (AFC) 35,
Dallas (NFC) 31
MVP: *Steelers QB Terry Bradshaw*

Super Bowl XIV
January 20, 1980
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Pittsburgh (AFC) 31,
Los Angeles Rams (NFC) 19
MVP: *Steelers QB Terry Bradshaw*

Super Bowl XV
January 25, 1981
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
Oakland (AFC) 27,
Philadelphia (NFC) 10
MVP: *Raiders QB Jim Plunkett*

Super Bowl XVI
January 24, 1982
Pontiac Silverdome, Michigan
San Francisco (NFC) 26,
Cincinnati (AFC) 21
MVP: *49ers QB Joe Montana*

Super Bowl XVII
January 30, 1983
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
Washington (NFC) 27,
Miami (AFC) 17
MVP: *Redskins RB John Riggins*

Super Bowl XVIII
January 22, 1984
Tampa Stadium
Los Angeles Raiders (AFC) 38,
Washington (NFC) 9
MVP: *Raiders RB Marcus Allen*

Super Bowl XIX
January 20, 1985
Stanford Stadium, California
San Francisco (NFC) 38,
Miami (AFC) 16
MVP: *49ers QB Joe Montana*

Super Bowl XX
January 26, 1986
Louisiana Superdome. New Orleans
Chicago (NFC) 46,
New England (AFC) 10
MVP: *Bears DE Richard Dent*

Super Bowl XXI
January 25, 1987
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, California
New York Giants (NFC) 39,
Denver (AFC) 20
MVP: *Giants QB Phil Simms*

Super Bowl XXII
January 31, 1988
San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium
Washington (NFC) 42,
Denver (AFC) 10
MVP: *Redskins QB Doug Williams*

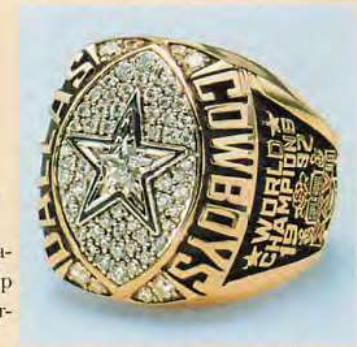
Super Bowl XXIII
January 22, 1989
Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami
San Francisco (NFC) 20,
Cincinnati (AFC) 16
MVP: *49ers WR Jerry Rice*

Super Bowl XXIV
January 28, 1990
Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans
San Francisco (NFC) 55,
Denver (AFC) 10
MVP: *49ers QB Joe Montana*

Super Bowl XXV
January 27, 1991
Tampa Stadium
New York Giants (NFC) 20,
Buffalo (AFC) 19
MVP: *Giants RB Ottis Anderson*

Super Bowl XXVI
January 26, 1992
Metrodome, Minneapolis
Washington (NFC) 37,
Buffalo (NFC) 24
MVP: *Redskins QB Mark Rypien*

Super Bowl XXVII
January 31, 1993
Rose Bowl, Pasadena
Dallas (NFC) 52,
Buffalo (AFC) 17
MVP: *Cowboys QB Troy Aikman*



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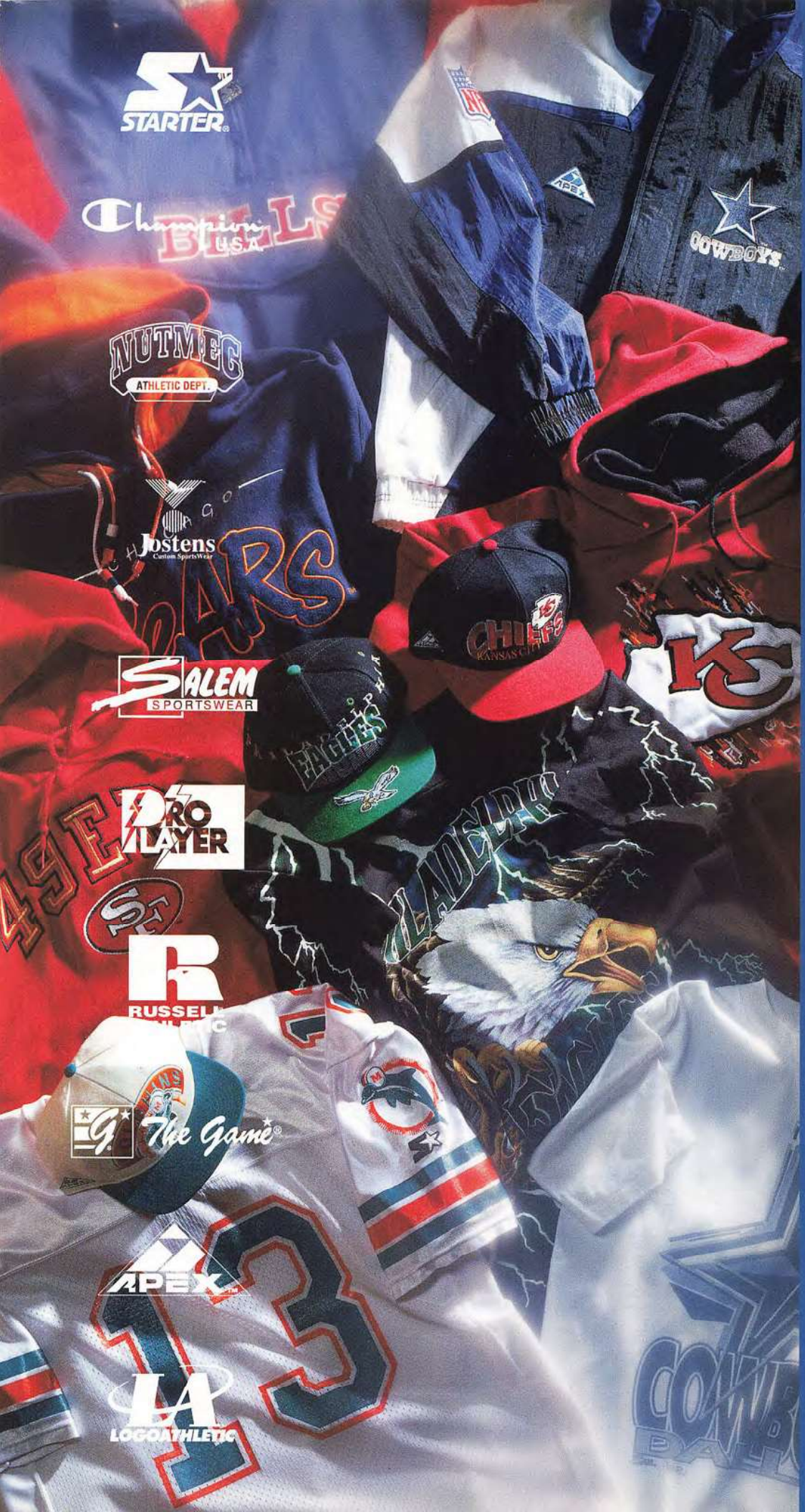

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INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Career

24 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-td)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (4-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games (4-td)
22 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (7-pat, 5-fg)

Most Points, Game

18 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (3-td)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-td)
15 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (3-pat, 4-fg)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games (4-r)
Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games (2-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games (4-p)
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games (3-p)
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (3-p)
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 3 games (3-r)

Most Touchdowns, Game

3 Roger Craig, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX (1-r, 2-p)
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-p)
2 By many players

Most Field Goals, Career

5 Ray Wersching, San Francisco, 2 games (5 att)
4 Don Chandler, Green Bay, 2 games (4 att)
Jim Turner, N.Y. Jets-Denver, 2 games (6 att)
Uwe von Schamann, Miami, 2 games (4 att)

Most Field Goals, Game

4 Don Chandler, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Ray Wersching, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI
3 By six players

Longest Field Goal

48 Jan Stenerud, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV
Rich Karlis, Denver vs. N.Y. Giants, XXI
47 Jim Turner, Denver vs. Dallas, XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Career

101 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
64 John Riggins, Washington, 2 games

Most Attempts, Game

38 John Riggins, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
34 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX

Most Yards Gained, Career

354 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
297 Larry Csonka, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

204 Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
191 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII

Longest Run From Scrimmage

74 Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII (TD)
58 Tom Matte, Baltimore vs. N.Y. Jets, III
Timmy Smith, Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Franco Harris, Pittsburgh, 4 games
3 Thurman Thomas, Buffalo, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game

2 By nine players

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Career

122 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
101 John Elway, Denver, 3 games

Most Passes Attempted, Game

58 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Passes Completed, Career

83 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
61 Roger Staubach, Dallas, 4 games

Most Passes Completed, Game

29 Dan Marino, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
28 Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI

Most Yards Gained, Career

1,142 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
932 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

357 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
340 Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Pass Completion

80 Jim Plunkett (to King), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Doug Williams (to Sanders), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 David Woodley (to Cefalo), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdown Passes, Career

11 Joe Montana, San Francisco, 4 games
9 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh, 4 games

Most Touchdown Passes, Game

5 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
4 Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh vs. Dallas, XIII
Doug Williams, Washington vs. Denver, XXII
Troy Aikman, Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Most Attempts, Without Interception, Game

36 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
35 Joe Montana, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Career

7 Craig Morton, Dallas-Denver, 2 games
6 Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota, 3 games
John Elway, Denver, 3 games
Jim Kelly, Buffalo, 3 games

Most Passes Had Intercepted, Game

4 Craig Morton, Denver vs. Dallas, XII
Jim Kelly, Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
3 By eight players

RECEPTIONS

Most Receptions, Career

21 Andre Reed, Buffalo, 3 games
20 Roger Craig, San Francisco, 3 games

Most Receptions, Game

11 Dan Ross, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XVI
Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
10 Tony Nathan, Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Most Yards Gained, Career

364 Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
363 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

215 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
193 Ricky Sanders, Washington vs. Denver, XXII

Longest Reception

80 Kenny King (from Plunkett), Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV (TD)
Ricky Sanders (from Williams), Washington vs. Denver, XXII (TD)
76 Jimmy Cefalo (from Woodley), Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Career

4 Jerry Rice, San Francisco, 2 games
3 John Stallworth, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh, 4 games
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games

Most Touchdowns, Game

3 Jerry Rice, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
2 By eight players

INTERCEPTIONS BY

Most Interceptions By, Career

3 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Rod Martin, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 2 games
2 By eight players

Most Interceptions By, Game

3 Rod Martin, Oakland vs. Philadelphia, XV
2 By six players

Most Yards Gained, Career

75 Willie Brown, Oakland, 2 games
63 Chuck Howley, Dallas, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
63 Jake Scott, Miami vs. Washington, VII

Longest Return

75 Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI (TD)
60 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II (TD)

Most Touchdowns, Game

1 Herb Adderley, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Willie Brown, Oakland vs. Minnesota, XI
Jack Squirek, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Reggie Phillips, Chicago vs. New England, XX

PUNTING

Most Punts, Career

17 Mike Eischeid, Oakland-Minnesota, 3 games
15 Larry Seiple, Miami, 3 games
Mike Horan, Denver, 3 games

Most Punts, Game

9 Ron Widby, Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
7 By eight players

Longest Punt

63 Lee Johnson, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII
62 Rich Camarillo, New England vs. Chicago, XX

Highest Average, Punting, Career (10 punts)

46.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City, 2 games (11-511)
41.9 Ray Guy, Oakland-L.A. Raiders, 3 games (14-587)

Highest Average, Punting, Game (4 punts)

48.5 Jerrel Wilson, Kansas City vs. Minnesota, IV (4-194)
46.3 Jim Miller, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XVI (4-185)

PUNT RETURNS

Most Punt Returns, Career

6 Willie Wood, Green Bay, 2 games
Jake Scott, Miami, 3 games
Theo Bell, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game
John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
5 Dana McLemore, San Francisco, 1 game

Most Punt Returns, Game

6 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII
5 Willie Wood, Green Bay vs. Oakland, II
Dana McLemore, San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Most Fair Catches, Game

3 Ron Gardin, Baltimore vs. Dallas, V
Golden Richards, Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
Greg Pruitt, L.A. Raiders vs. Washington, XVIII
Al Edwards, Buffalo vs. N.Y. Giants, XXV
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants vs. Buffalo, XXV

Most Yards Gained, Career

94 John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games
52 Mike Nelms, Washington, 1 game

Most Yards Gained, Game

56 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
52 Mike Nelms, Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Longest Return

45 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
34 Darrell Green, Washington vs. L.A. Raiders, XVIII

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)

15.7 John Taylor, San Francisco, 2 games (6-94)
10.8 Neal Colzie, Oakland, 1 game (4-43)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)

18.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII (3-56)
12.7 John Taylor, San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (3-38)

KICKOFF RETURNS

Most Kickoff Returns, Career

10 Ken Bell, Denver, 3 games
8 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games
Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games

Most Kickoff Returns, Game

7 Stephen Starring, New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Darren Carrington, Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

Most Yards Gained, Career

283 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games
207 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games

Most Yards Gained, Game

190 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII
162 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV

Longest Return

98 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (TD)
93 Stanford Jennings, Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, XXIII (TD)

Highest Average, Career (4 returns)

33.4 Fulton Walker, Miami, 2 games (8-283)
25.9 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh, 2 games (8-207)

Highest Average, Game (3 returns)

47.5 Fulton Walker, Miami vs. Washington, XVII (4-190)
32.4 Larry Anderson, Pittsburgh vs. Los Angeles, XIV (5-162)

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TEAM RECORDS

SCORING

Most Points, Game

55 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV
52 Dallas vs. Buffalo, XXVII

Fewest Points, Game

3 Miami vs. Dallas, VI
6 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Points, Both Teams, Game

69 Dallas (52) vs. Buffalo (17), XXVII
66 Pittsburgh (35) vs. Dallas (31), XIII

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Game

21 Washington (7) vs. Miami (14), VII
22 Minnesota (6) vs. Pitsburgh (16), IX

Largest Margin of Victory, Game

45 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV (55-10)
36 Chicago vs. New England, XX (46-10)

Most Points, Each Half

1st: 35 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
2nd: 30 New York Giants vs. Denver, XXI

Fewest Points, Both Teams, Each Half

1st: 2 Minnesota (0) vs. Pittsburgh (2), IX
2nd: 7 Miami (0) vs. Washington (7), VII
Denver (0) vs. Washington (7), XXII

FIRST DOWNS

Most First Downs, Game

31 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX
28 San Francisco vs. Denver, XXIV

Fewest First Downs, Game

9 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
Miami vs. Washington, XVII
10 Dallas vs. Baltimore, V
Miami vs. Dallas, VI

Most First Downs, Both Teams, Game

50 San Francisco (31) vs. Miami (19), XIX
49 Buffalo (25) vs. Washington (24), XXVI

Fewest First Downs, Both Teams, Game

24 Dallas (10) vs. Baltimore (14), V
26 Minnesota (9) vs. Pittsburgh (17), IX

TOTAL YARDS

Most Yards Gained, Game

602 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
537 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

119 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX
123 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

929 Washington (602) vs. Denver (327), XXII
851 San Francisco (537) vs. Miami (314), XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

452 Minnesota (119) vs. Pittsburgh (333), IX
481 Washington (228) vs. Miami (253), VII
Denver (156) vs. Dallas (325), XII

RUSHING

Most Attempts, Game

57 Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota, IX
53 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Fewest Attempts, Game

9 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
11 New England vs. Chicago, XX

Most Attempts, Both Teams, Game

81 Washington (52) vs. Miami (29), XVII
78 Pittsburgh (57) vs. Minnesota (21), IX
Oakland (52) vs. Minnesota (26), XI

Fewest Attempts, Both Teams, Game

49 Miami (9) vs. San Francisco (40), XIX
53 Kansas City (19) vs. Green Bay (34), I

Most Yards Gained, Game

280 Washington vs. Denver, XXII
276 Washington vs. Miami, XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

7 New England vs. Chicago, XX
17 Minnesota vs. Pittsburgh, IX

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

377 Washington (280) vs. Denver (97), XXII
372 Washington (276) vs. Miami (96), XVII

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

168 Buffalo (43) vs. Washington (125), XXVI
171 Baltimore (69) vs. Dallas (102), V

PASSING

Most Passes Attempted, Game

59 Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
50 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Game

7 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII
11 Miami vs. Washington, VII

Most Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

92 Buffalo (59) vs. Washington (33), XXVI
85 Miami (50) vs. San Francisco (35), XIX

Fewest Passes Attempted, Both Teams, Game

35 Miami (7) vs. Minnesota (28), VIII
39 Miami (11) vs. Washington (28), VII

Most Passes Completed, Game

29 Miami vs. San Francisco, XIX
Buffalo vs. Washington, XXVI
26 Denver vs. New York Giants, XXI

Fewest Passes Completed, Game

4 Miami vs. Washington, XVII
6 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

53 Miami (29) vs. San Francisco (24), XIX
48 Denver (26) vs. New York Giants (22), XXI

Fewest Passes Completed, Both Teams, Game

19 Miami (4) vs. Washington (15), XVII
20 Pittsburgh (9) vs. Minnesota (11), IX

Most Yards Gained, Game

341 San Francisco vs. Cincinnati, XXIII
326 San Francisco vs. Miami, XIX

Fewest Yards Gained, Game

35 Denver vs. Dallas, XII
63 Miami vs. Minnesota, VIII

Most Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

615 San Francisco (326) vs. Miami (289), XIX
583 Denver (320) vs. New York Giants (263), XXI

Fewest Yards Gained, Both Teams, Game

156 Miami (69) vs. Washington (87), VII
186 Pittsburgh (84) vs. Minnesota (102), IX

Most Times Sacked, Game

7 Dallas vs. Pittsburgh, X
New England vs. Chicago, XX
6 Kansas City vs. Green Bay, I
Washington vs. Los Angeles Raiders, XVIII
Denver vs. San Francisco, XXIV

CAREER PASSING LEADERS

(minimum 10 attempts)

Player, Team	Games	Att.	Comp.	Pct. Comp.	Yds.	Avg. Gain	TD	Pct. TD	Long	Int.	Pct. Int.	Rating Points
Joe Montana, San Francisco	4	122	83	68.0	1142	9.36	11	9.0	44	0	0.0	127.8
Jim Plunkett, Oakland-L.A.Raiders	2	46	29	63.0	433	9.41	4	8.7	80t	0	0.0	122.8
Terry Bradshaw, Pittsburgh	4	84	49	58.3	932	11.10	9	10.7	75t	4	4.8	112.8
Bart Starr, Green Bay	2	47	29	61.7	452	9.62	3	6.4	62t	1	2.1	106.0
Roger Staubach, Dallas	4	98	61	62.2	734	7.49	8	8.2	45t	4	4.1	95.4
Len Dawson, Kansas City	2	44	28	63.6	353	8.02	2	4.5	46t	2	4.5	84.8
Bob Griese, Miami	3	41	26	63.4	295	7.20	1	2.4	28t	2	4.9	72.7
Dan Marino, Miami	1	50	29	58.0	318	6.36	1	2.0	30	2	4.0	66.9
Joe Theismann, Washington	2	58	31	53.4	386	6.66	2	3.4	60	4	6.9	57.1
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	3	95	50	52.6	596	6.27	2	2.1	40	6	6.3	51.6
John Elway, Denver	3	101	46	45.5	669	6.62	2	1.9	56t	6	5.9	49.5
Fran Tarkenton, Minnesota	3	89	46	51.7	489	5.49	1	1.1	30	6	6.7	43.7

AI Messerschmidt

Joe Montana, top Super Bowl passer

Andy Hayt

Andre Reed is the Super Bowl's leading receiver.

CAREER RUSHING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	Yards	Attempts	Avg.	Long	TD
Franco Harris, Pittsburgh	4	354	101	3.5	25	4
Larry Csonka, Miami	3	297	57	5.2	49	2
John Riggins, Washington	2	230	64	3.6	43t	2
Timmy Smith, Washington	1	204	22	9.3	58t	2
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	198	52	3.8	18	2
Marcus Allen, L.A. Raiders	1	191	20	9.6	74t	2
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	3	167	36	4.6	31t	3
Tony Dorsett, Dallas	2	162	31	5.2	29	1
Mark van Eeghen, Oakland	2	148	36	4.1	11	0
Rocky Bleier, Pittsburgh	4	144	44	3.3	18	0
Walt Garrison, Dallas	2	139	26	5.3	19	0

CAREER RECEIVING LEADERS

Player, Team	Games	No.	Yards	Avg.	Long	TD
Andre Reed, Buffalo	3	21	248	11.8	40	0
Roger Craig, San Francisco	3	20	212	10.6	40	2
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	2	18	363	20.2	44	4
Lynn Swann, Pittsburgh	4	16	364	22.8	64t	3
Chuck Foreman, Minnesota	3	15	139	9.3	26	0
Cliff Branch, Oakland-L.A. Raiders	3	14	181	12.9	50	3
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	3	13	92	7.1	15	0
Preston Pearson, Balt.-Pitt.-Dall.	5	12	105	8.8	14	0
John Stallworth, Pittsburgh	4	11	268	24.4	75t	3
Dan Ross, Cincinnati	1	11	104	9.5	16	2
Ricky Sanders, Washington	2	10	234	23.4	80t	2
Gary Clark, Washington	2	10	169	16.9	34	2
Otis Taylor, Kansas City	2	10	138	13.8	46t	1
Dwight Clark, San Francisco	2	10	122	12.2	33	0
Tony Nathan, Miami	1	10	83	8.3	25	0

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Touchdown, Field Goal, or Successful Try

Safety

Time Out

Dead Ball or Neutral Zone Established, Crowd Noise

First Down

Personal Foul

Ball Illegally Touched, Kicked, or Batted

Delay of Game

No Time Out or Time in With Whistle

Offside or Encroaching

Holding

Penalty Refused, Incomplete Pass, Play Over, or Missed Field Goal

Ineligible Receiver or Ineligible Member of Kicking Team Downfield

Illegal Motion at Snap

Crawling, Interlocking Interference, Pushing, or Helping Runner

Unsportsmanlike Conduct, Chop Block

Tripping

Illegal Crackback

Illegal Cut or Blocking Below the Waist

Intentional Grounding of Pass

Touching a Forward Pass or Scrimmage Kick

Player Disqualified

Illegal Contact

False Start, Illegal Shift, Illegal Formation, or Kickoff or Safety Kick Out of Bounds

Illegal Use of Hands, Arms, or Body

Pass Juggled Inbounds and Caught Out of Bounds

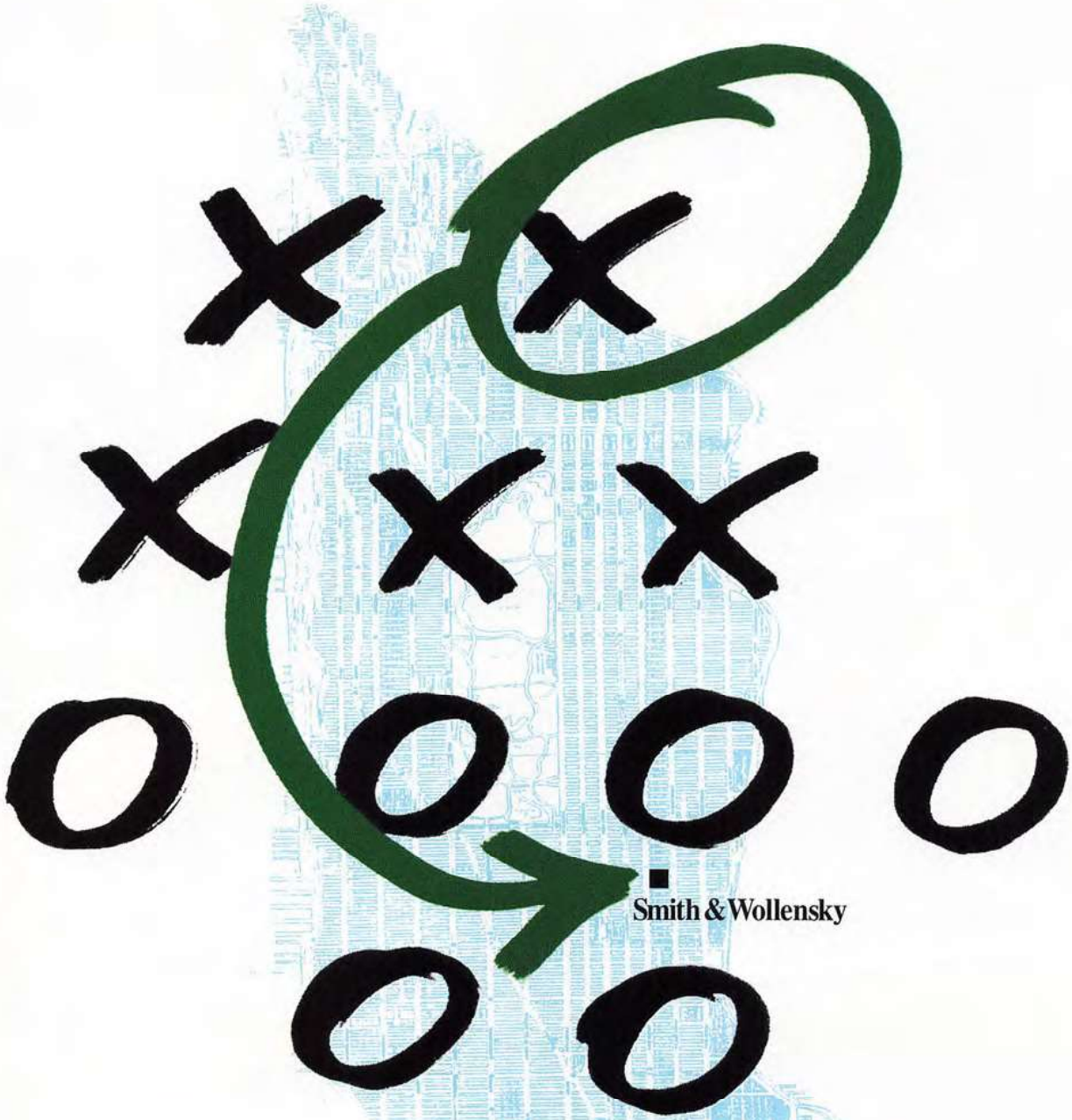
Illegal Forward Pass

Loss of Down

Invalid Fair Catch Signal

Uncatchable Forward Pass

Interference With Forward Pass or Fair Catch



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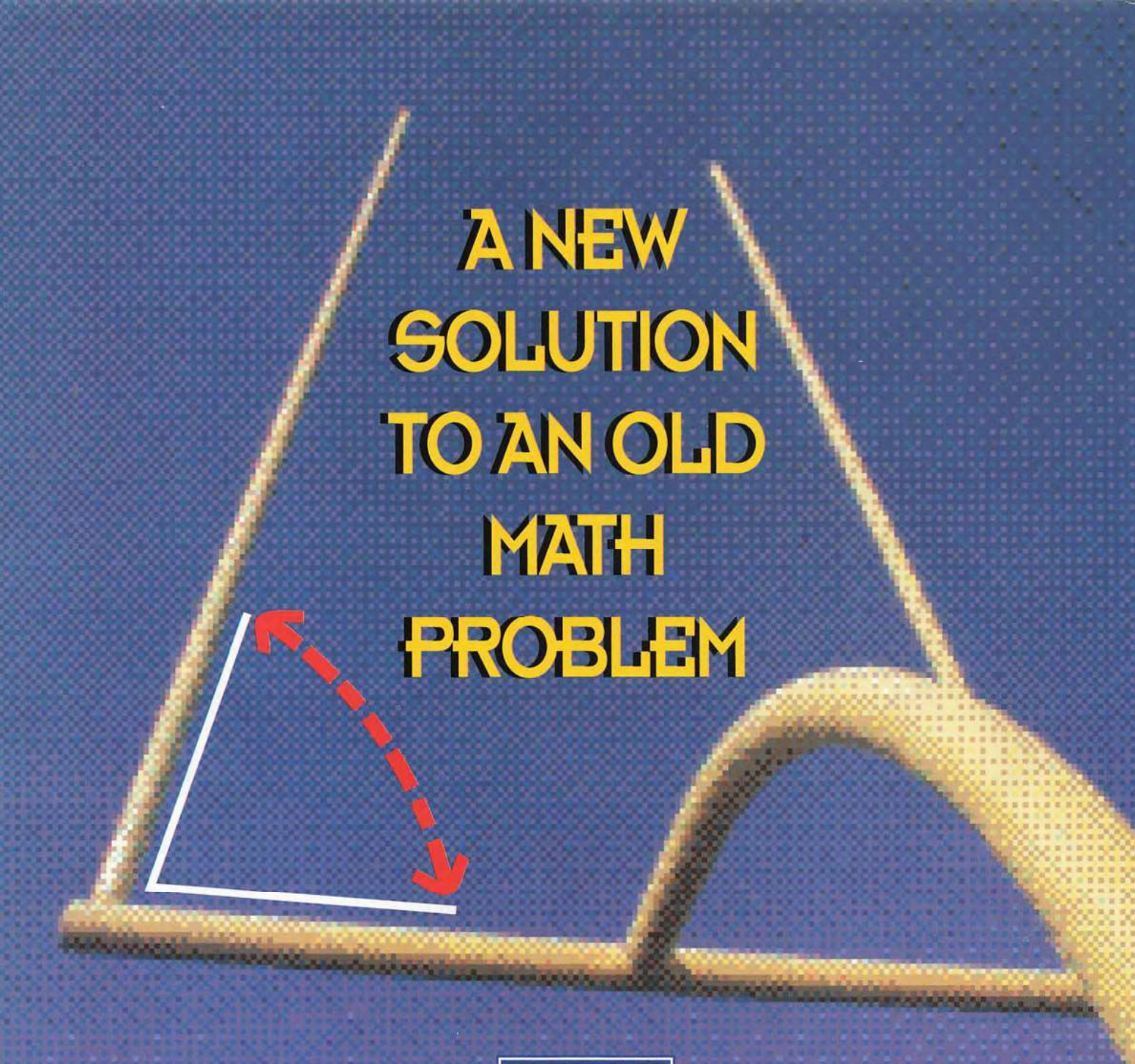

Let's face it, most students think of math as a chore. So getting—and keeping—kids interested in math classes has been a constant challenge for teachers. Now GTE and the National Football League have tackled the problem in an innovative way with Project PASS (Promoting Achievement and Student Skills). Directed at seventh graders, Project PASS presents basic math problems in an NFL context, using interactive computer technology to develop an understanding of geometry, statistics, and probability concepts. It's a whole new way of looking at math and making it relevant. With Project PASS, the excitement of the playing field is brought into the classroom...and kids who never before scored in math feel like winners.

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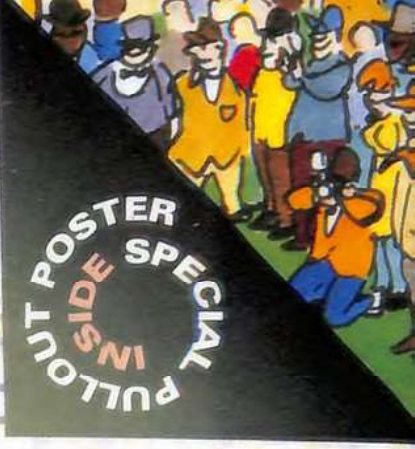
PROJECT PASS: AN NFL/GTE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION



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at

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PROJECT PASS: AN NFL/GTE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

Answers: a. 80%; b. 67%; c. 31%; d. 23%; e. 0%; f. 0%

WINNING FACTORS

How do turnovers affect a team's won/lost record?

Study the graph and fill in the blanks below.

a. 0 turnovers = ____ % victory

b. 1 turnover = ____ % victory

c. 2 turnovers = ____ % victory

d. 3 turnovers = ____ % victory

e. 4 turnovers = ____ % victory

f. 5 turnovers = ____ % victory

(correct answers at upper left)

Everyone loves a puzzle. But some puzzles have serious implications, such as why many American kids don't do as well as they should in math. Is the answer in the kids? Or in the way we approach the subject? At GTE, we not only have puzzled over the problem, we have taken the initiative to solve it. In partnership with the National Football League, GTE developed Project PASS (Promoting Achievement & Student Skills). It's an innovative way to teach math to seventh graders using questions (such as the one above) presented in an NFL context. With interactive computer and CD-I technology and teachers acting as coaches, Project PASS aims to put points where they count most—on report cards.

GTE

GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE NFL AND SUPER BOWL XXVIII

PROJECT PASS: AN NFL/GTE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

WELCOME TO SUPER BOWL XXVIII
WALDO WATCHERS AND WHAT A SPECTACULAR
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WHAT ITS ORIGINAL NAME WAS?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AT THE SUPER BOWL:

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WOOF'S TAIL

5 WALDO HATS

1 DOG BONE

AND DON'T FORGET TO FIND:

28 NFL TEAM MASCOTS (CAN YOU NAME THEM ALL?)

14 GTE LOGOS

ANSWERS: 750 MILLION PEOPLE WATCHED IN MORE THAN 65 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THE NFL WAS FORMED IN 1920 AS THE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION. (THE NAME WAS CHANGED TO NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE IN 1922.)

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WHERE'S WALDO? *at Super Bowl XXVIII • Jan*

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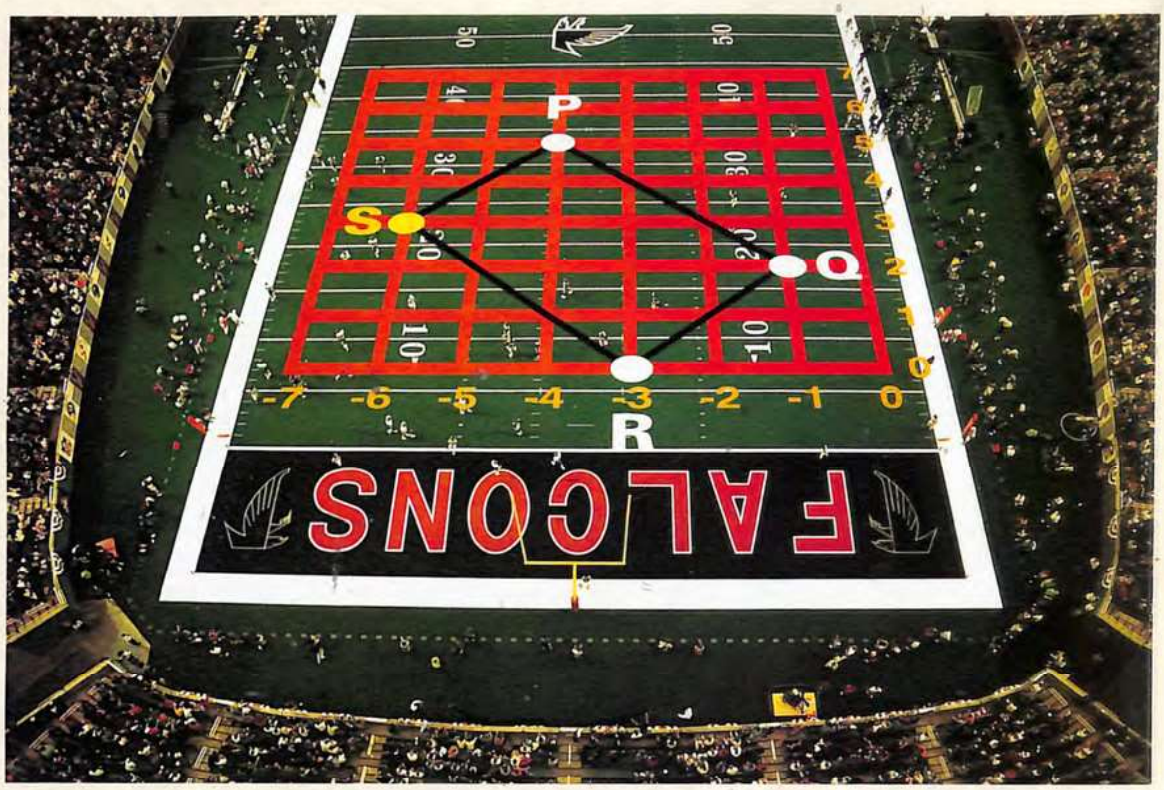
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE



1. The coordinates of point S are (-6, 3). What are the coordinates of points P, Q, and R?

P=_____ Q=_____ R=_____

(correct answers at lower left side)

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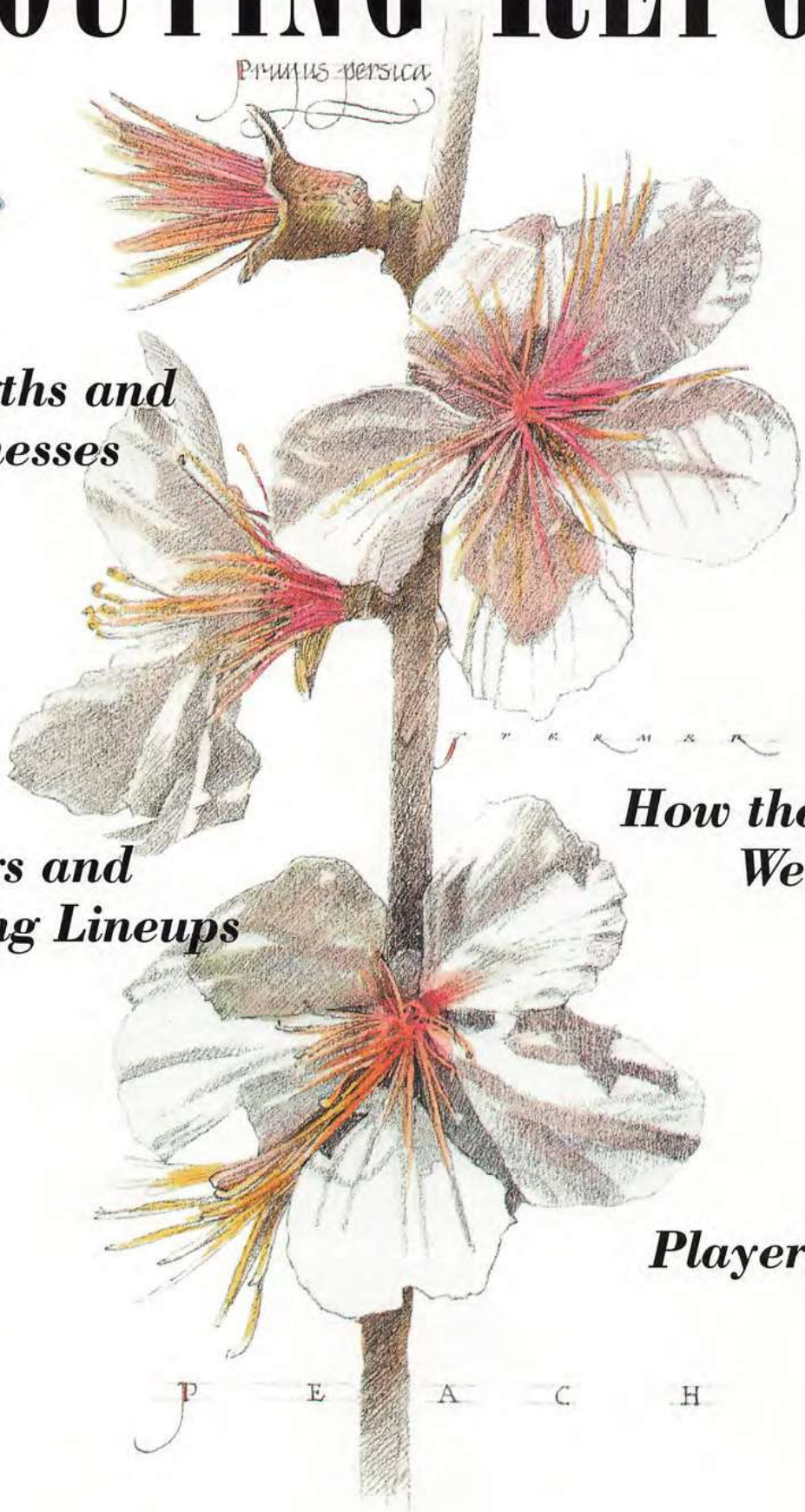
Answers: P= -4, 5; Q= -1, 2; R= -3, 0

GTE: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONSULTANT TO THE NFL AND SUPER BOWL XXVIII

PROJECT PASS: AN NFL/GTE PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION

SCOUTING REPORT



Strengths and Weaknesses

How the Teams Were Built

Rosters and Starting Lineups

Player Photos

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BUFFALO BILLS

After the Bills had defeated the Miami Dolphins to move into first place in the AFC East on December 19, tight end Pete Metzelaars issued a tidy summation of his team's mood: "If it makes everybody mad that Buffalo is still in the hunt...well, good."

It was the Bills against the world in 1993, or so it sometimes seemed.

Even the team's most resilient backers had to feel a bit ambivalent as Buffalo stalked an unprecedented fourth consecutive Super Bowl appearance. Another dagger to the heart in late January might be too painful to bear.

But if support wavered, the confidence of head coach Marv Levy's players never did. The loss, through free agency, of three key participants in Super Bowls past—tackle Will Wolford and linebackers Shane Conlan and Carlton Bailey—hurt strategically but appeared to strengthen the Bills' resolve.

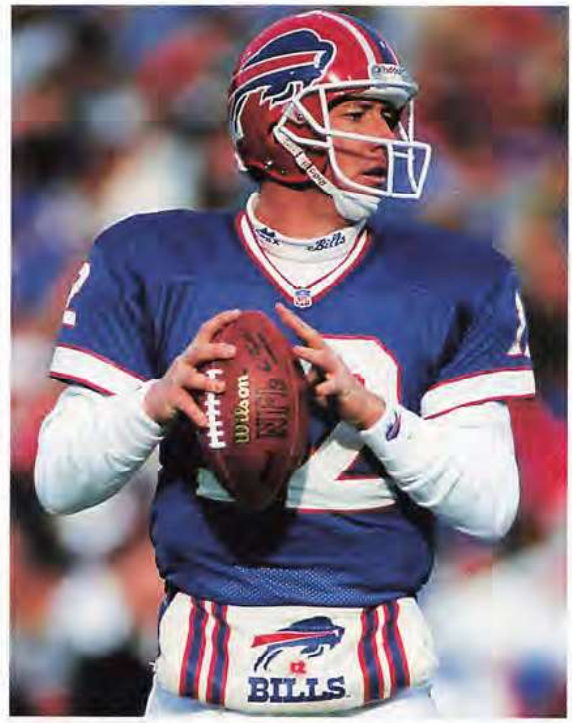
And when Buffalo got stuck in an offensive morass and lost three of four games at midseason, the Bills stopped short of a total breakdown. They regrouped to win their last four regular-season games and cement home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs.

That last factor cannot be overestimated in gauging the Bills' chances to return to the Super Bowl. Their 29-23 victory over the Raiders in the AFC Divisional Playoffs pushed the Bills' postseason home record to 7-0 since 1988.

It galls their AFC opponents to repeatedly have to travel to the frigid shores of Lake Erie during the playoffs, but the Bills have secured home-field advantage three of the last four years.

How do they do it? Mostly by winning their close games. Buffalo rarely was dominant in 1993 (the team actually was outgained by more than 18 yards per game), but it was 5-1 in contests decided by three points or fewer. Kicker Steve Christie won four games with late field goals.

Talk about three consecutive Super Bowl losses all you want, a 5-1 record in tight games is a mark of strong character.



Ron Vesely

Jim Kelly: a strong right arm, plenty of weapons, and three games' worth of Super Bowl experience.

Another reason was an opportunistic defense that took the ball away from opponents a league-leading 47 times and returned 3 interceptions and a fumble for touchdowns.

Most of all, you can attribute the Bills' lasting success to a continuity in personnel and coaching philosophy. With the exceptions of a few key newcomers such as wide receiver Bill Brooks and cornerback Mickey Washington, this is largely the same team that won the AFC title a year ago. In many ways, it is the same team that has dominated the AFC playing field in the 1990s. Over the last four seasons, Buffalo has compiled the league's best winning percentage, both in the regular season (.766; 49-15) and overall (.760; 57-18).

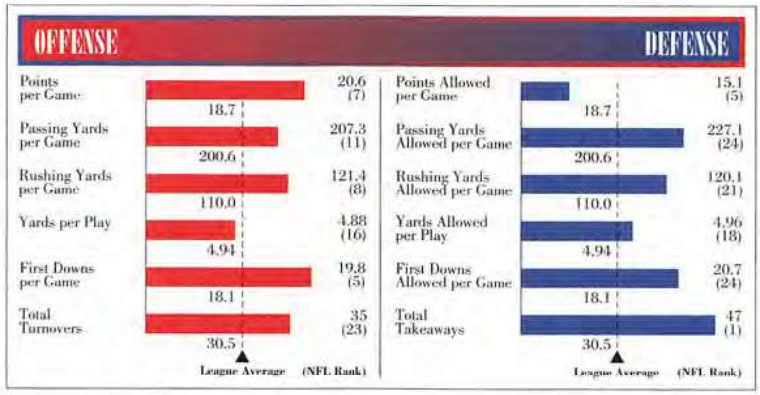
In fact, if it were not for those three losses where losses matter most—those games with the Roman numerals—the Bills would be considered one of the greatest teams in NFL history. Only the Chicago Bears of 1985-88 and the San Francisco 49ers of 1989-1992 won more games (52 each) over a four-year span.

The timing of that success, of course, isn't about the Bills being nineties kind of guys. Its roots can be traced to the No-Huddle offense that Buffalo adopted in game 12 of the 1990 season. The system's architect, Ted Marchibroda, since has moved on to Indianapolis, but its main enforcers—quarterback Jim Kelly, running back Thurman Thomas, and wide receiver Andre Reed—still are alive and well and playing in Rich Stadium.

If there is a single piece of information that might have lifted the spirits of even the most pessimistic Bills fan, it is the fact that Buffalo spent much of 1993 exorcising its demons. The 12-4 season included victories over the New York Giants, Washington, and Dallas, the three NFC teams that had delivered those mortal blows in XXV, XXVI, and XXVII.

"We would still like to have those three rings," linebacker Cornelius Bennett admitted after the third of the three wins. Still, it looked like a good first step toward redemption.

Kelly, for his part, was banking on the law of averages. "Someone's got to win the Super Bowl, and somebody's got to lose," he said prior to the season. "I just wish we could see what it feels like to win one for a change."



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Joe Montana is a man with the physical presence of your cousin the insurance salesman and the psychological impact of an electrical storm.

When he steps onto the field—whether it's at Arrowhead Stadium or in enemy territory—he immediately tilts the balance of power and draws the undivided attention of every observer.

Fans go bleary-eyed. Opponents get dry mouths. And all the while, Montana grins and shrugs as if he just showed up for his Friday night bowling league.

It has taken fans in Kansas City a year, less even, to feel that same sense of awe that causes the San Francisco Bay Area faithful to scan the Monday sports page for Joe results before they even turn to the 49ers story.

That feeling extends to his teammates, too. "We need Joe out there," safety Kevin Ross said after a 23-7 victory over Buffalo in November. "He has this certain composure that rubs off on the rest of us."

Kansas City was 3-2 in games Montana missed, including an ugly 17-15 home victory over then-winless Cincinnati. And that was behind Dave Krieg, a quarterback who has thrown more NFL touchdown passes (217) than either Terry Bradshaw or Y.A. Tittle.

Not that it was a surprise Montana sat out some games. At 37, after countless injuries, he is perhaps the most fragile American sports hero outside of the figure-skating realm.

Allen Dean Steele

Even after a successful season, it seems a bit odd to see Joe Montana in his number-19 Chiefs jersey.

In 1993, Montana missed one game with an injured wrist and four more with a nagging hamstring pull. In the Chiefs' scintillating victory over Houston in the AFC Divisional Playoffs, he played with a sore left hand, a tender knee, and a passing elbow that looked like a blue-ribbon russet potato.

But play he did. And as long as he could get up and run another play, the Kansas City boosters figured their team was the odds-on favorite to emerge victorious in Super Bowl XXVIII.

Obviously, Montana did not do it alone. He had plenty of help from the rejuvenated Marcus Allen, himself an old Super Bowl hero; the blinding pass-rush combination of end Neil Smith and linebacker Derrick Thomas; an opportunistic defense that took away the ball 38 times; and a kicker, Nick Lowery, who finished the season as the most accurate field-goal booter (80.05 percent) in the history of the NFL.

In all, it was the culmination of a master plan initiated by president/general manager Carl Peterson and carried out by head coach Marty Schottenheimer. In Peterson's last 13 years in football—five with the Philadelphia Eagles, three with the Stars of the USFL, and five with Kansas City—his teams have made the playoffs 11 times.

In 1993, besides trading for Montana and signing Allen as a free agent, Peterson hired Paul Hackett as offensive coordinator. Hackett, a disciple of Bill Walsh, implemented a 49ers-style offense in Kansas City. It was a huge departure from Schottenheimer's trusted grind-it-out running attack, which had been quite successful in its own right, but the head coach showed faith and was rewarded with his fourth consecutive playoff berth.

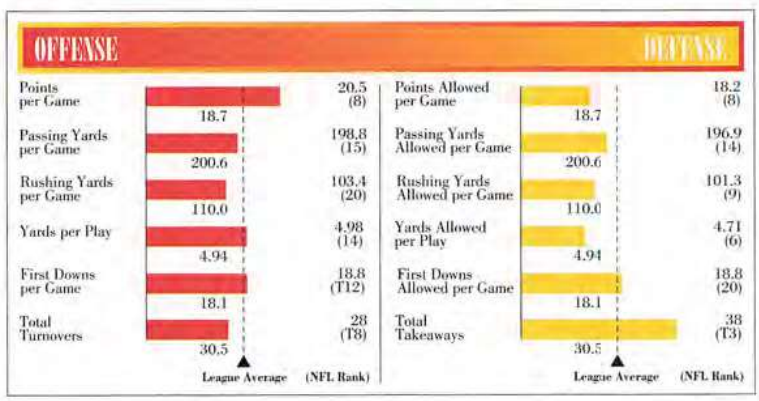
The Chiefs unloaded two running backs, Barry Word and Christian Okoye, who didn't fit the new system, and passed to their remaining backs 95 times, the most for a Chiefs team under Schottenheimer.

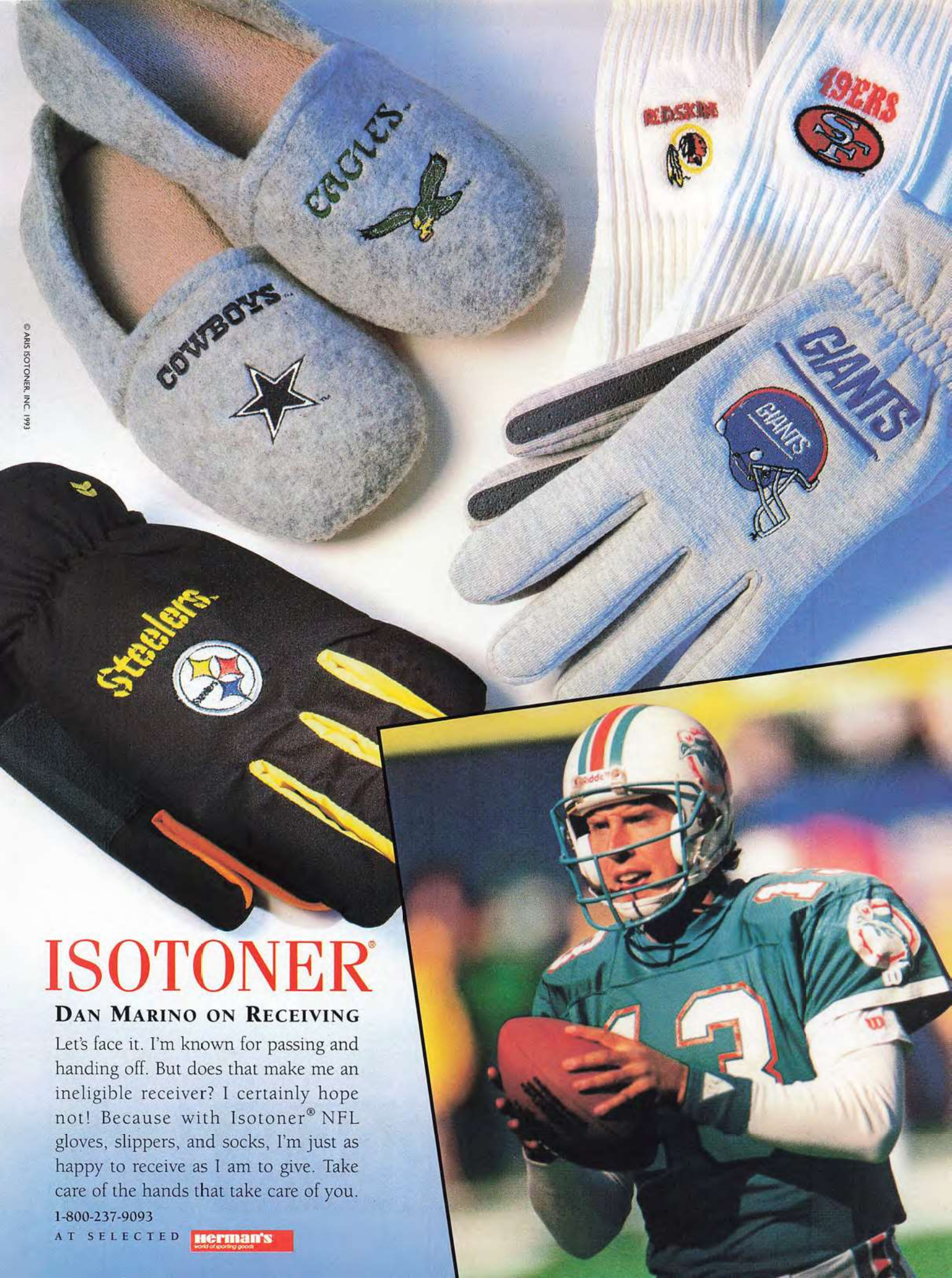
The chemistry was right, which was fortunate considering the team had deficiencies that were hard to hide. The running game, even with Allen revisiting his prime inside the red zone, ranked twentieth in the league. Kansas City was outscored 104-67 in the fourth quarter. Overall depth was less than playoff caliber.

The up-and-down Chiefs finished the regular season by giving up 24 or more points in each of the last four games, then barely survivied a 27-24 overtime wild-card game against Pittsburgh.

But survive they did, setting up the heroics in Houston and, a week later, a trip to Buffalo for the Chiefs' first-ever appearance in the AFC Championship Game. (Their last equivalent accomplishment was winning the pre-merger AFL title in 1969, en route to winning Super Bowl IV.)

During the playoff run, it was Thomas who expressed his team's newfound confidence: "It's time to load the big guns and shoot 'til you're out of bullets."





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DALLAS COWBOYS

He is some kind of hero when he is his healthy self. But on the last day of the regular season, when all the marbles were on the line for the Dallas Cowboys, a literal one-armed man transcended from hero to Hero in the ultimate game of 1993.

If you saw Emmitt Smith that day you never will forget it. It was the stuff of Hollywood scenarios. *Listen, Charlie...this star running back separates his shoulder in the big game—can't even lift his arm, but he insists on staying in there and he asks 'em to keep giving him the ball and they do and he leads a drive to a field goal that breaks a tie in overtime...*

As if to prove that truth really is as dramatic as fiction, Emmitt Smith, a one-armed man indeed, carried or caught the football on 9 of 12 plays in the Cowboys' overtime drive to a field goal that toppled the New York Giants 16-13, giving the Cowboys the NFC East title and the home-field advantage throughout the playoffs. "Every time I touched the ball I hurt," Smith said. "Every time someone would help me up after I was tackled, I would say I was okay. I was lying."

The Man Who Should Be MVP accounted for a total of 229 yards against the Giants. He gained 59 of his 168 rushing yards (in the process capturing his third consecutive NFL rushing title with 1,486 yards) and caught 4 passes (out of a total of 10) after the collision that damaged his shoulder just before halftime. His right arm had to be taped to his body for the game's last two hours.

Smith was the lighthouse beacon in the Cowboys' quest for a Super Bowl rerun. The team that had trounced Buffalo 52-17 in Super Bowl XXVII in Pasadena last January, began the 1993 season with losses to the Redskins (35-16) and, yes, to the Bills (13-10). The team that had looked invincible in the '92 postseason also had begun the '93 season without Emmitt Smith, who was embroiled in a contract dispute with owner Jerry Jones. Peace in the Cowboys' times came September 14. Smith played five days later.

The Cowboys barely looked back after that, winning 12 of their last 14 games. The only losses were back-to-back setbacks to Atlanta (a game in which Smith severely bruised his leg and had only one carry), and to Miami (a 3-point Thanksgiving Day setback that really should have been a 14-13 victory—but that's another story!).

Smith is an amazing athlete, but he is only the tip of the iceberg on the talented football team that Jones and coach Jimmy Johnson have assembled.

America's Team II: The Sequel also stars quarterback Troy Aikman, wide receivers Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper, tight end Jay Novacek, Pro Bowl offensive linemen Nate Newton, Erik Williams, and Mark Stepnoski (the latter is injured and out for the season), and three Pro Bowl defensive players—tackle Russell Maryland, linebacker Ken Norton, and safety Thomas Everett. It is only slightly stretching the truth to say that when the Cowboys' season ends, the team charter will fly directly to Honolulu.

James D. Smith

Troy Aikman: The hero of Super Bowl XXVII again was a model of efficiency in 1993.

Aikman, 27, is the leader of the young Cowboys (in a scary thought for the rest of the NFL, Smith and Maryland are 24, Harper 26, Irvin and Norton 27...well, you get the idea). Aikman was second only to the 49ers' Steve Young among NFL quarterbacks with a 99.0 rating. He completed a league-leading 69.1 percent of his passes and had only 6 interceptions in 392 attempts.

Irvin, the consummate smooth operator, had 88 catches for 1,330 yards, trailing only the Packers' Sterling Sharpe and the 49ers' Jerry Rice. Harper led all NFL starters with a 21.6-yard average on 36 catches. The Cowboys' number-two and number-three receivers were the indefatigable Smith (57 catches) and fullback Daryl (Moooooose) Johnston, yet another Pro Bowl selection.

The Cowboys' defense led the league in last year's championship season. A reading of this year's numbers would lead you to believe the team regressed. The numbers are wrong. True, the ratings show the defense tenth in the league. But the facts are these: The Cowboys permitted an average of just 14.3 points per game, down a point from 1992. Dallas surrendered just 21 touchdowns, and no more than 1 touchdown on defense in 12 games. Six opponents were held to 10 or fewer points, and only three scored more than 17.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

No matter what they do, no matter how much they win, George Seifert and Steve Young can't seem to escape the Rodney Dangerfield Syndrome. They can't seem to get the respect they deserve.

Seifert has been the 49ers' sideline guru since 1989, when he directed San Francisco to a victory in Super Bowl XXIV. Seifert has had three 14-2 regular seasons and two 10-6 regular seasons. Overall, he has won 77 percent of the time.

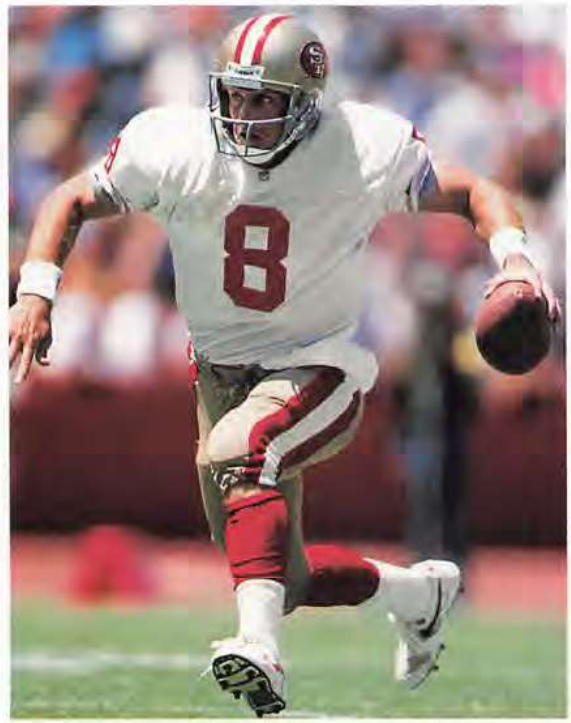
So what do they say in San Francisco? So what is the media rap? *Yeah, but he's no Bill Walsh.*

Young has had three full seasons as the 49ers' quarterback. He has led the NFL in passing in each of those years (something no one ever has done) and he has surpassed 100 ratings points while doing it (no one before him ever had two consecutive 100-point seasons). He has won 71 percent of his games.

So what do they say about Young. Okay, all together now—*Yeah, but he's no Joe Montana.*

Truth is, until Seifert replicates Walsh's three Super Bowl victories...and Young matches Montana's four Super Bowl rings, the 49ers' Faithful (*Un*faithful?) will continue to echo the same old song and dance.

The rest of us merely have the pleasure of watching these two men doing what they do as well as—if not better than—anyone else in the game, which is (1) win a lot more often than they lose and (2) play marvelously entertaining football while doing it.



Bob Rosato

In 1993, Steve Young became the first quarterback ever to lead the NFL in passing three straight years.

In its first 17 games this season, San Francisco scored 35 or more points eight times. The 49ers averaged 30.4 points for all of those 17 games, nearly 7 points a game more than the next most explosive team (Dallas at 23.7).

Young became the first 49ers quarterback to pass for more than 4,000 yards in a season (Young had 4,023 passing yards in 1993). Young also does what he does with a minimum of mistakes (in three seasons he has an astonishing touchdown pass/interception ratio of 71/30). And, oh, yes, he also might be pro football's most talented *running* quarterback, too. He ranked 19th among all runners in the NFC this year with 407 yards. Over the last three years, he has averaged 6.4 yards on 211 carries.

One 49er who definitely commands *everyone's* R-E-S-P-E-C-T is Jerry Rice, the peerless wide receiver who is only 3 touchdowns away from surpassing Jim Brown as the NFL's all-time leader. Rice's 124 touchdowns include 118 receiving and 6 rushing.

Rice had another routinely brilliant season in 1993, leading the league in receiving yards (1,503) while trailing only the all-time-record season of Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe in catches (Rice had 98 to Sharpe's 112). Rice is only 31 and has shown no signs of slowing down, but the people in Canton can start working on the bust now.

The arsenal of weapons only starts with Young and Rice. Add John Taylor (56 catches) at the other wide receiver spot and Brent Jones (68) at tight end to 950 rushing yards from Rickey Watters (he also caught 31 passes) and you can begin to see why 30 points a game was the norm, not the exception this year in San Francisco.

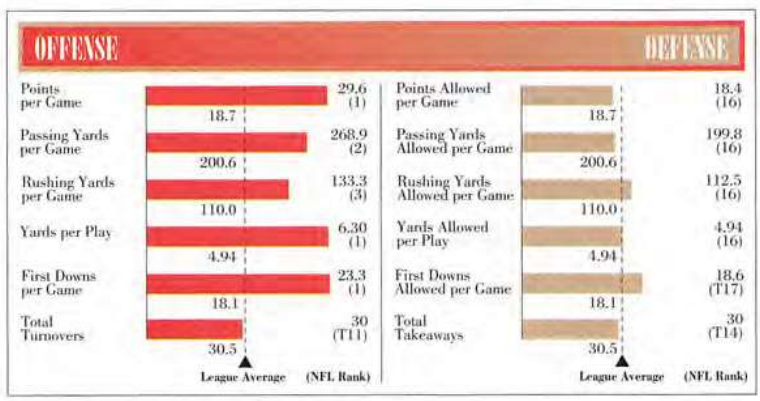
The 49ers' offensive line is quick and mobile, as adept at run blocking as it is at protecting Young.

San Francisco's offense is second to none. Unfortunately, its defense lags behind many. The 49ers were fifteenth in the NFL in overall defense this year, ranking a mediocre sixteenth in both rushing and passing defenses. San Francisco surrendered a total of 57 points in two games with Atlanta (winning one and losing one) and more than 20 points in four other games.

Still, this is not a defense without ability, as it proved by shutting down the Giants 44-3 two weeks ago in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game. (New York managed only 41 rushing yards, and Rodney Hampton, a Pro Bowl running back, carried 7 times for 12 yards.)

The crucial member of the defense is ex-Cardinals safety Tim McDonald, who was signed as a free agent after the 1992 season.

The 49ers ended the regular season with three losses in four games, including home setbacks to Houston and Philadelphia in basically meaningless (for the 49ers) games in weeks 17 and 18. They seemed to recapture the midseason magic against the Giants.



PRO LAYER
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PASSING

Buffalo's Bills are in the same hurry-up mode that has made them the offense of the nineties in the AFC. Though they shelved their hurry-up attack early in the season, they returned to it—and their winning ways—after the first five games and romped to another AFC Eastern Division championship.

It is virtually the same group that has brought the Bills along for a fourth consecutive try at a Super Bowl ring. Quarterback Jim Kelly still runs the pass offense and puts the hurry into the hurry-up.

Kelly is tough and an excellent leader. He can run the ball, but prefers to throw. His confidence is both his strength and weakness. He forces his passes more often than most quarterbacks—note his 18 interceptions to match his 18 touchdown passes. He completed 288 of 470 passes (61.8 percent; second in the AFC) for 3,382 yards.

Kelly thwarts defensive changes by setting the offense at the line of scrimmage, then calling the play via an audible. And it works.

Tight end Pete Metzelaars—Kelly's choice receiver—suffered a compound fracture of the little finger on his left hand in the AFC Divisional Playoff Game. He caught 68 passes during the season, but may be replaced on passing downs by Keith McKellar, who had just 3 receptions in 1993.

A key addition to the 1993 Bills was unrestricted free agent wide receiver Bill Brooks from Indianapolis; Brooks had 60 receptions for 714 yards and 5 touchdowns. He joins Andre Reed (52 catches, 854 yards) as the main threats.

Thurman Thomas is the key receiver for the screens and dump-offs coming out of the backfield. Don Beebe adds speed to the wide receivers and figures mainly in long bombs.

The line of tackles John Fina and Howard Ballard, guards Glenn Parker and John Davis, and center Kent Hull averages 303 pounds, giving Kelly plenty of heft for protection.

KEY STATS

- Wide receiver Andre Reed did not lead the Bills in receiving for the first time since 1985, ending his streak at seven seasons. He did lead Buffalo in receiving yards, however.
- Tight end Pete Metzelaars was Jim Kelly's favorite target on third down (and every other down, for that matter), catching 21 passes in 34 attempts for 17 first downs.
- Jim Kelly is one of two NFL quarterbacks to start every regular-season game in 1992-93, thanks to an offensive line that allowed only 45 sacks during that 32-game span.

Alan Schwartz

Andre Reed was voted to his sixth consecutive Pro Bowl.

The numbers don't have to add up when a team has a four-time Super Bowl champion at quarterback. That's what Kansas City has in Joe Montana, and everything the Chiefs accomplish starts with him.

When Montana arrived in a trade with San Francisco, it was with one thought in mind: Win the Super Bowl. Now it's wait to see if he can accomplish the same magic in a different setting.

At 37, Montana still has the leadership and decision-making qualities that make him so special. And he continues to move his game up a large notch in the playoffs and bring his teammates along with him. "He brings a special confidence with him," says coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Montana still delivers the ball on target nearly every throw, and he knows when to throw it away. He led the Chiefs to the AFC Western Division championship with 181 completions in 298 passes for 2,144 yards and 13 touchdowns against just 7 interceptions. Surround him with a huge line whose main function is to protect him, and receivers who can get open, and you have the ingredients of a champion.

John Alt, the 307-pound left tackle, and Tim Grunhard, the 299-pound center, are the leaders of the pass-blocking unit that also includes left guard Dave Szott (290), right guard Will Shields (296), and right tackle Ricky Siglar (304).

Willie Davis and J.J. Birden didn't rank among the leaders in number of passes caught. But Davis had 909 yards (eighth in the AFC) on 52 catches and 7 touchdowns. Birden's 721 yards on 51 catches were good enough to make the list of 20 top receivers. Davis and Birden are the speed for Montana to reach.

Running backs Kimble Anders (40 catches) and Marcus Allen (34) work mainly with Montana's dump-offs and screens. Big tight ends Jonathan Hayes and Keith Cash do the blocking and tough receiving over the middle.

Dave Krieg is in reserve should anything happen to Montana.

Mark Brettingen

Former free agent Willie Davis: the Chiefs' primary deep threat

KEY STATS

- The arrival of Joe Montana and offensive coordinator Paul Hackett was good news for the Chiefs' tight ends, who combined for 55 catches and 656 yards. In 1992, Chiefs' tight ends had 22 catches for 197 yards.
- It also was good news for the wide receivers: For the first time since 1984, the Chiefs had two wide receivers with 50 or more catches (Willie Davis had 52 and J.J. Birden had 51).
- The offensive line got better as the season progressed, allowing only 6 sacks in the final six games.

PASSING

Being the offensive coordinator for the Dallas Cowboys is like being a kid in an ice cream parlor. No team has more more toppings and no team has more flavors.

The Cowboys ranked second in rushing and third in passing among NFC teams. They ran for 20 touchdowns and they passed for 18. They called 490 running plays and 504 passes. Bottom line: The Cowboys can win games by land or air, and they are happy to do it in either fashion.

KEY STATS

- Troy Aikman posted a career-high passer rating of 99.0 in 1993 to rank second in the NFL. He set club records for completion percentage (league-high 69.1) and lowest interception percentage (1.5).
- The Cowboys' offensive line allowed only 29 sacks in 1993, the fewest in the NFC and the third fewest in the NFL.
- More than 50 percent (172 of 317) of the Cowboys' completions went to tight ends or running backs, led by Emmitt Smith (57 receptions) and Daryl Johnston (50 receptions).

When the situation dictates a passing attack, quarterback Troy Aikman selects his targets based upon the defense he confronts. Against a fierce pass rush, he might use running backs Emmitt Smith or Daryl Johnston on screen passes and flares. Against a deep zone or double coverage outside, he might target tight end Jay Novacek across the middle. But when the time is right to go for the throat, Aikman loads up his cannon and zeroes in on his targets Michael Irvin and Alvin Harper.

Irvin averaged 15.1 yards per catch on 88 receptions this season. Harper caught 36 passes averaging 21.6 yards. Together, they accounted for 2 of every 3 Cowboys touchdown receptions, including bombs of 61 yards to Irvin and 80 to Harper.

James D. Smith

Is there anyone who can cover Michael Irvin one-on-one?

The hallmark of the Dallas passing offense is the uncommon patience and discipline of Aikman, who refuses to force passes into waiting coverage. As a result, only 6 of his 392 passing attempts were picked off in 1993. He led NFC passers with a 1.5 interception percentage.

Even so, the Cowboys are notorious for their unpredictability. They won't hesitate to throw deep from their own end of the field or call a pass play on third-and-inches.

The most notable difference in the passing attack from a year ago is the de-emphasis of Novacek, who had 24 fewer catches (44) and 5 fewer touchdowns (1). That, of course, could change at a moment's notice... depending on the coverage Aikman needs to dismantle.

Statistics may not tell the whole story of the 49ers' passing attack, but they tell enough to frighten any opposing defensive coordinator charged with designing a game plan.

This season, as last season, San Francisco had the top-ranked passing offense in the NFC. The 1993 harvest included 4,302 yards and 29 touchdowns. This season, as last season and the season before, quarterback Steve Young was the league's leading passer. He became the first quarterback in NFL history to win the title and record a passer rating of better than 100 in three successive years. By snaring 15 touchdown receptions, wide receiver Jerry Rice increased his career total to 118, a figure that makes him the all-time leader after only nine NFL seasons. Add to this four other 49ers who hauled in more than 30 receptions, and you have vivid picture of a defensive back's worst nightmare.

Bill Amatucci

Incomparable Jerry Rice: 124 touchdowns in 9 seasons

The 49ers have hit upon a formula that minimizes risk and maximizes gain—a controlled passing game plan that features short, safe routes and receivers with breakaway speed. They run crossing patterns and picks that confuse man-for-man coverage schemes. They flood zones with an overload of receivers. They use three-step quarterback drops and timing routes. But the real focal points of their success are: (1) high-percentage passes and (2) brilliant open-field running. That equation resulted in an average of 8.71 yards per attempt for Young.

Rice and his veteran counterpart, John Taylor, are the big reasons why it works. Both are large targets (Rice is 6-2, Taylor 6-1) with sure hands and great leaping ability.

KEY STATS

- Jerry Rice led the NFL with 1,503 receiving yards in 1993, becoming the first player in league history to record three seasons with more than 1,500 receiving yards.
- Steve Young is the only quarterback in NFL history to record three consecutive passing titles and three consecutive seasons with a passer rating of more than 100.
- Young's 4,023 passing yards in 1993 broke Joe Montana's club record, and his career passer rating of 93.0 trails only Montana (93.1) on the NFL's all-time list.

When defenses attempt to gang up on the wideouts, Young can turn to tight end Brent Jones, who is gifted at finding the open seams when opponents try to rely on zone coverage. He had 68 catches for 735 yards this season. The final ingredient in the mix is the uncanny scrambling ability of Young, who can buy extra time to find a receiver or—another nightmare—pull down the ball and run.

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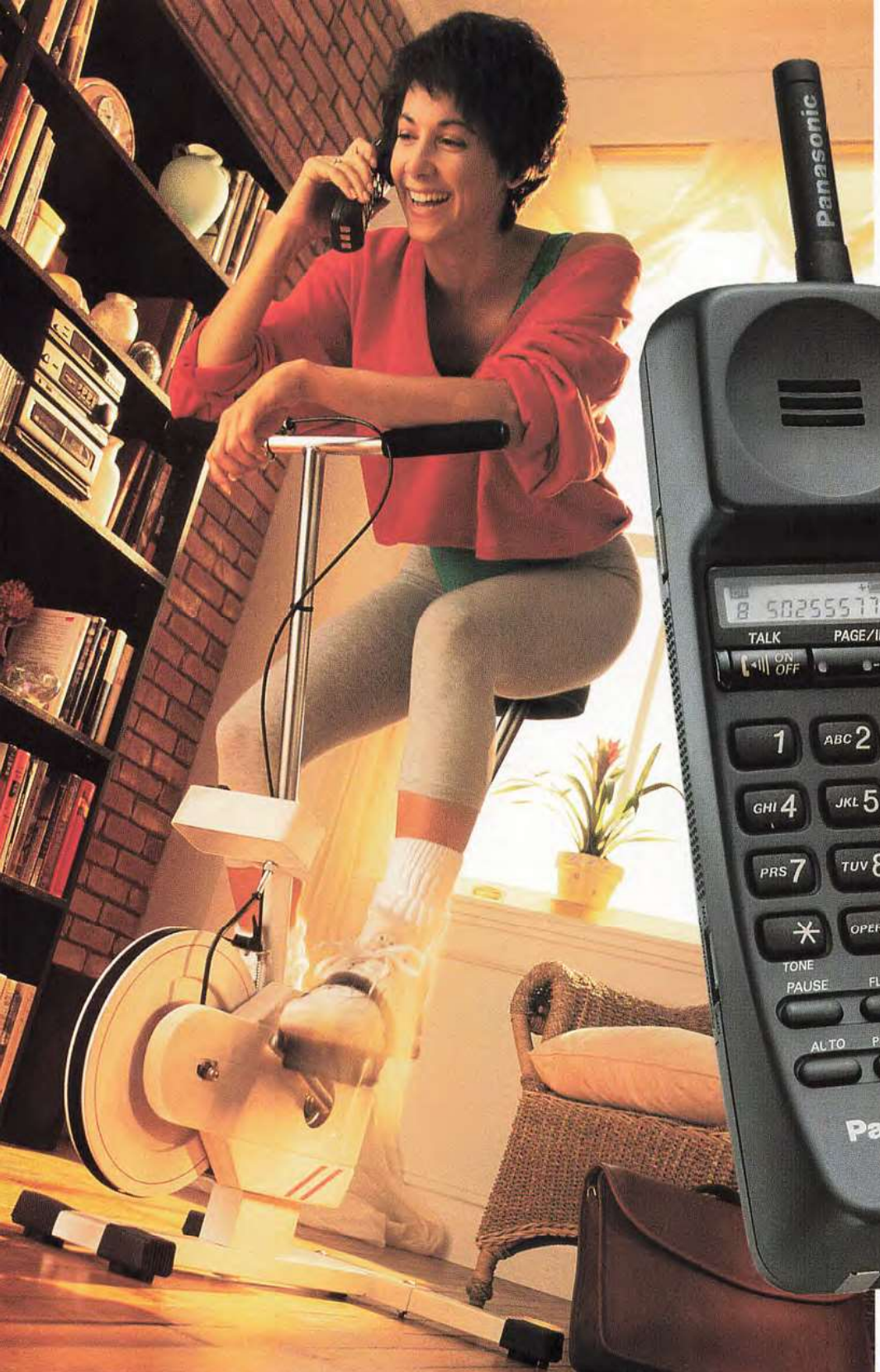

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RUSHING

The popular image of Buffalo's No-Huddle offense entails wide receivers zig-zagging all over the field and footballs sailing into the blue sky. But make no mistake about it: This offense is built upon the rushing of Thurman Thomas.

It was an odd year for Thomas. He captured the AFC rushing title for the third time after relinquishing it to Pittsburgh's Barry Foster in 1992, but his healthy 1,315-yard total was accompanied by career single-season lows in average (3.7 yards) and long carry (27).

KEY STATS

- Buffalo had the NFL's eighth-ranked rushing offense, failing to lead the league in that category for the first time since 1990.
- Thurman Thomas ran for an AFC-high 1,315 yards, but he posted the lowest yards-per-carry average (3.7) of his career.
- The Bills were more dependent than ever on Thomas in 1993: He had a league-leading 355 rushing attempts, 43 more than his previous career high.
- The Bills' longest run in 1993 was just 27 yards.

In a nutshell, Thomas was as effective as ever as Buffalo's workhorse, but he didn't break many long-distance runs.

Part of that is due to the Bills' offensive attack, which, under normal conditions, sends Thomas between the tackles without the luxury of a lead blocker. (He usually operates from a one-back set.)

Thomas looks inside first, bouncing outside or cutting back if the lanes are clogged. It's a game plan that makes use of his greatest assets: good vision and great balance.

When Thomas feels he needs a breather, it is left to him to signal for Kenneth Davis, a backup runner whom more than a few teams would love to make a starter. Buffalo hardly loses a step with Davis in the game, and he usually is the team's first choice in short-yardage situations.

The Bills don't try to fool opponents with blocking schemes. Most of the push goes straight ahead. However, they keep opponents on their toes by running from the Shotgun formation, primarily sweeps and inside draws.

If they are protecting a lead and looking to keep the clock running, the Bills will go with a two-back set. The second set of legs belongs to Carwell Gardner, a 245-pound fullback who hits like a monster truck.

The Bills' running game, like the rest of the offense, begins with Jim Kelly's reads at the scrimmage line. If he can spot an imbalance in the defense, Thomas usually can take care of the rest.

Ron Vesely

Thurman Thomas still bears a heavy workload in Buffalo.

Where, oh where, would the Kansas City running game be without Marcus Allen?

Gone in 1993 was Barry Word, traded to Minnesota because he didn't fit into offensive coordinator Paul Hackett's short-passing offense. Gone was former Pro Bowl choice Christian Okoye, banished into limbo after a knee injury. Gone, for the most part, was agile Harvey Williams, who missed the second half of the season with head and neck injuries.

As it was, the Chiefs' running game ranked twentieth among the 28 NFL teams—nothing to brag about. But Allen, the respected veteran who found new legs in Kansas City, was a model of consistency. He rushed for 764 yards despite never breaking 100 in a game, and he scored 12 times on the ground.

Allen always has had tremendous balance, and he still can accelerate through the hole. He hasn't lost any of his competitiveness, either—you will almost always see him moving forward at the end of a play.

Bob Rosato

Rejuvenated Marcus Allen led the AFC in touchdowns.

Allen's backfield partner is fullback Kimble Anders (291 yards in 1993). The Chiefs usually run between the tackles, with Anders leading the way. If they go outside, it most often is from a deep I-formation, with Anders offset to the side of attack.

The Kansas City offensive line relies on good, old-fashioned drive blocking. They're a strong bunch, especially when big tight ends Jonathan Hayes and Keith Cash play. Inside the opponent's 30-yard line, look for a two-tight end, one-back set that prevents the defense from overloading on one side.

KEY STATS

- The Chiefs' rushing offense ranked twentieth in the NFL, but it was good when it counted most. Marcus Allen ran for an NFL-high 12 touchdowns.
- Allen's 15 total touchdowns led the AFC and gave him 113 for his career, vaulting him into fifth place on the all-time touchdown list.
- Allen led the Chiefs and ranked seventh in the AFC with 764 rushing yards; no other Chiefs back had more than 291 yards.

When Allen isn't carrying the ball, it most likely will be Anders—off counter-action, away from a fake to the halfback —or Todd McNair, a capable reserve who is a little lighter and faster than Allen.

A final note: It is important for Kansas City to establish an ability to run on first down; otherwise, the classic play-action style that Joe Montana has come to rely upon will be rendered virtually useless.

RUSHING

The Cowboys' rushing attack isn't so much an offensive unit as it is a man. Once you've made the acquaintance of Emmitt Smith, you have met the Dallas ground game.

Across three successive league-leading seasons, he has slashed, spun, lunged, and dived for a total of 4,762 yards, enduring a withering workload that has seen him carry the ball an average of more than 22 times per game. If there is a handoff in the Dallas backfield, odds are good that Smith is on the run. His 1,486 rushing yards in 1993 were 1,217 more than his closest teammate.

James D. Smith

If you don't stop Emmitt Smith, you don't beat the Cowboys.

That almost-total reliance upon his ground-gaining skills exposed the Cowboys' lone offensive weakness at the beginning of the season. When Smith missed Dallas's first two games because of a contract dispute, the Cowboys were 0-2. In the 14 games after his return to the lineup, they were 12-2. His rare combination of short-yardage grit and big-play, game-breaking skills have made him a distinctive and irreplaceable part of the Dallas offense. In games in which Smith has gained 100 or more yards, the Cowboys are 28-1.

Smith is among the best in the league at reading blocks, avoiding pursuit, and cutting back against the grain. His ability to explode through a hole and accelerate into the secondary presents the constant threat of a big gain. In each of the last three years, he has broken at least one touchdown run of more than 60 yards.

It doesn't hurt that he plays behind two Pro Bowl linemen, guard Nate Newton and tackle Erik Williams, and alongside Pro Bowl fullback Daryl Johnston, each of whom takes a little pride in Smith's achievements.

The nagging worry for the Cowboys is the health of their star running back, who has played throughout the postseason with a painful injury to his right shoulder. An aggravation to the injury sent him to the sideline for the second half of a divisional playoff game. The Cowboys are not the same team without him.

KEY STATS

- When the Cowboys beat the Giants in the final game of the regular season, Emmitt Smith rushed for 168 yards and caught 10 passes, despite playing most of the second half, plus overtime with a painful separated shoulder.
- Despite missing two and a half games, Smith won his third consecutive rushing crown. He joined Steve Van Buren (1947-49), Jim Brown (1957-61, 1963-65), Earl Campbell (1978-1980) as the only players in NFL history to accomplish that feat.
- Smith ran for an NFL season-high 237 yards against the Eagles in 1993.

The 49ers did nothing in the regular season to detract from their reputation for wide-open, pass-happy, thrill-a-minute game plans. Their play selection (55 percent passes) leaned heavily on the left arm of quarterback Steve Young, and their touchdown leader, as usual, was wide receiver Jerry Rice. But any defensive strategist who would ignore the San Francisco ground game is advised to refer to the 49ers' 44-3 victory over the New York Giants in a divisional playoff game.

When the Giants focused their attention on stopping the receiving corps, the 49ers handed the ball to Ricky Watters 24 times. Watters responded with 118 yards and a playoff-record 5 touchdowns.

Because of their precision aerial attack, the 49ers are adept at spreading out a defense and probing for weaknesses. Watters has the speed to get outside and the instincts to cut back against the grain. He benefits from a quick, mobile offensive line that features trap blockers and pulling blockers, led by perennial Pro Bowl guard Guy McIntyre. Tom Rathman and Marc Logan are interchangeable fullbacks, better blockers than ground gainers.

KEY STATS

- Ricky Watters, who led the 49ers with 950 rushing yards, ran for an NFC-high 10 touchdowns in 1993, then added a postseason-record 5 rushing scores against the Giants.
- The 49ers' offensive line is amazingly durable: The five regulars combined to miss just two starts in 1993, three in 1992, and none in 1991.
- The 49ers' number-two rusher was quarterback Steve Young, who finished with 407 yards.
- Marc Logan and Tom Rathman combined for 360 rushing yards, 37 receptions, and numerous key blocks from the fullback position.

What sets the 49ers' running game apart from most is the quick feet and slick moves of Young, who is almost as comfortable running with the football as throwing it. He was the nineteenth leading rusher in the NFC (407 yards), with an average of 5.9 yards per carry. Several selections in the San Francisco playbook are designed running plays for the quarterback.

Weaknesses? Watters has has had spells of inconsistency and can be frustrated if he is shut down early in a game. The line, which is small by NFL standards, is not designed to overpower the opposition. And the blood pressure of the 49ers' collective coaching staff rises every time Young tucks the ball under his arm. But here's what matters: In 1993, the pass-happy 49ers had the NFL's third-best running game .

David Drapkin

Ricky Watters: 950 yards despite missing three games

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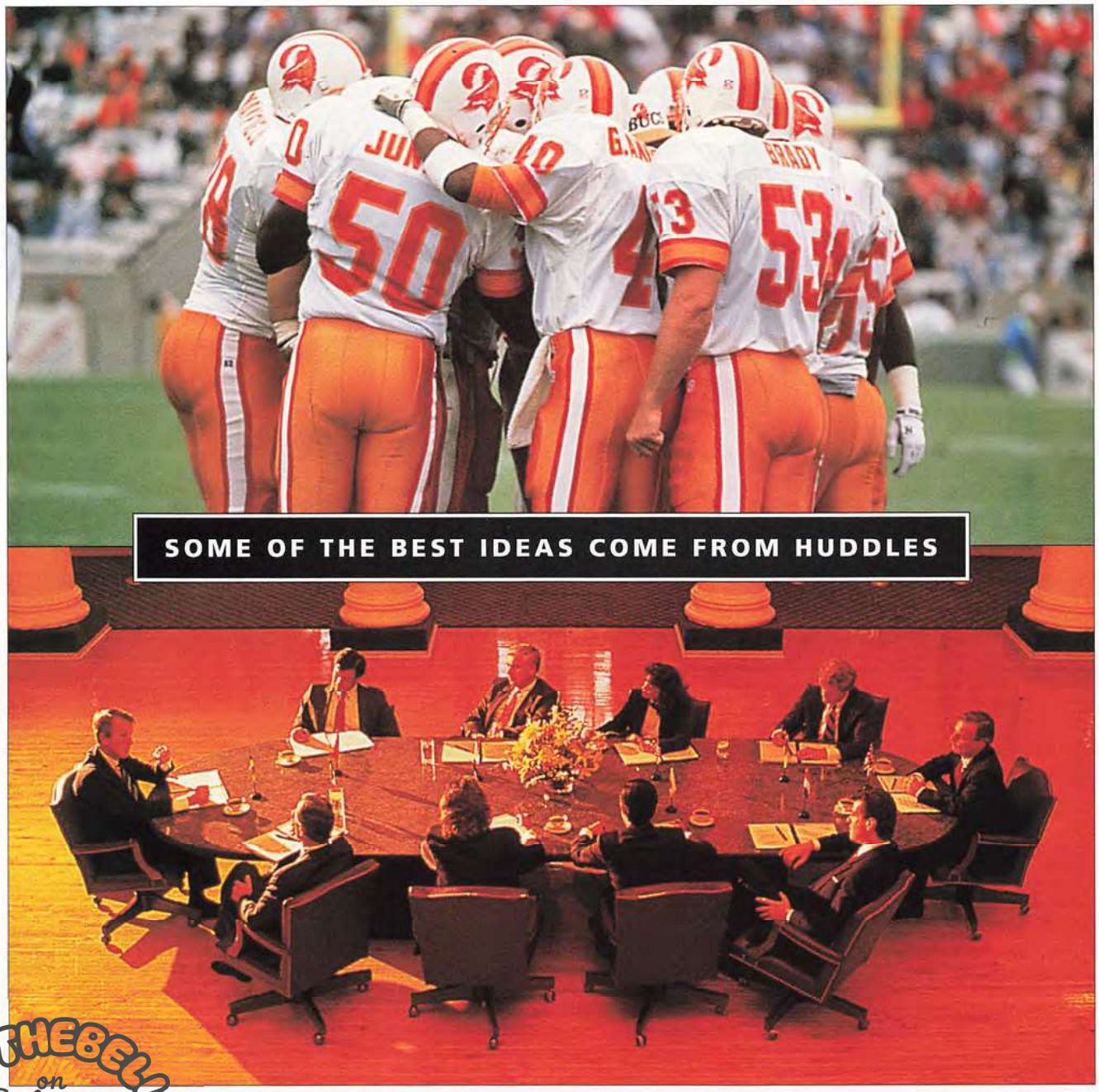

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PASSING DEFENSE

It is easy to be deceived by the Bills' pass defense. The numbers—227.1 passing yards per game to rank twenty-fourth in the NFL—seem to indicate a porous unit at best.

But most of those yards came in the middle of the field. Buffalo allowed just 15.1 points per game, an indication that opponents had little trouble moving the ball, but a lot of trouble getting it into the end zone.

That is just fine with the Bills, who are content to sit in their zone coverages and wait for an interception, which seemed inevitable in 1993 (their 23 were fourth best in the NFL). More important, they did not give up the big play—Buffalo allowed just 7 plays of 30 or more yards, and none exceeding 54 yards.

KEY STATS

- The Bills' opponents outgained the Bills, 227.1 passing yards to 207.3, but Buffalo allowed only 242 points, the second fewest in the AFC.
- Buffalo ranked fourth in the NFL with 23 interceptions, including 3 that were returned for touchdowns.
- Cornerback Nate Odomes tied for the NFL lead with 9 interceptions, the second consecutive season a Bills player has led the league.
- Despite all the yards they allowed, the Bills' defense gave up only one play of 40 or more yards—a 54-yard touchdown reception in their season-opening victory over New England.

Teamwork is the essence of the Bills' pass defense, a unit that featured 12 players with at least a half sack and nine with 1 or more interception.

Defensive end Bruce Smith leads the way up front, as usual. Smith tied for second in the NFL with 13½ sacks. He usually goes at the passer from right end, although on passing downs linebacker Cornelius Bennett becomes a down lineman and Smith could come from anywhere, even over center.

The Bills do not like to blitz, but if necessary, they will send linebackers Bennett and Darryl Talley from their basic 3-4 set. They sometimes blitz with a safety or cornerback out of their six-defensive-back alignment.

Buffalo is almost exclusively a zone team, rarely employing man-for-man coverage except on third-and-short. Talley is the only linebacker who stays in when the Bills go to their 4-1-6 set, with Matt Darby and Kurt Schulz coming in as extra defensive backs.

Dave Silverman

Nate Odomes finally got his first Pro Bowl nod in '93.

Cornerback Nate Odomes is the leader of the secondary, a seven-year veteran who tied for the NFL lead with 9 interceptions in 1993. He is joined by free agent Mickey Washington at the other corner position, with third-year man Henry Jones (who tied for the NFL lead in 1992 with 8 interceptions) and veteran Mark Kelso at safety.

Kansas City's pass defense can be summed up in three words: no big plays. Or, in other words, no cheap touchdowns. Not that any team would have time to throw deep against the Chiefs' pass rush.

Applying much of the pressure is defensive end Neil Smith, who led the NFL with 15 sacks in 1993. Smith ranked second on the team in forced fumbles (4) and led the Chiefs in fumble recoveries (3).

Joining Smith is linebacker Derrick Thomas, also one of the league's premier pass rushers. Although Thomas posted the lowest sack total of his five-year career (8), he still led the Chiefs in quarterback pressures and tied for second in forced fumbles (4).

Thomas usually lines up at linebacker, although in passing situations he moves to down lineman, usually to the wide side of the field. No matter where he lines up, his sole responsibility on passing plays is to rush the passer.

Thanks to Smith and Thomas, the Chiefs rarely have to resort to blitzes. Sometimes they will send a defensive back on a blitz out of the 4-1-6 dime alignment they use on passing downs. Kansas City utilized that blitz to great effect in its playoff victory over Houston, with cornerback Albert Lewis and safety Bennie Thompson each posting 2 sacks.

Allen Dean Steele

Defensive end Neil Smith: an AFC-leading 15 sacks

KEY STATS

- Cornerback Albert Lewis rebounded from two injury-plagued seasons to lead the Chiefs with 6 interceptions in 1993.
- Safety Charles Mincy was second on the team with 5 interceptions, although he started just four games.
- Linebacker Derrick Thomas (66) and defensive end Neil Smith (57) rank second and third, respectively, on the Chiefs' all-time sack list.
- Kansas City's defense limited four teams to 10 or fewer points, including playoff participants Denver (7), the Los Angeles Raiders (9), and Buffalo (7).

The Chiefs' secondary lost its best player when cornerback Dale Carter suffered a broken arm late in the season. Jay Taylor replaced Carter, joining Lewis and safeties Kevin Ross (a converted cornerback) and Martin Bayless.

When the Chiefs switch to their six-defensive-back set, they move Thomas to the line, play only one linebacker (Jaime Fields), and bring in two defensive backs (from the quartet of Thompson, Charles Mincy, Bruce Pickens, and Erik McMillan).

The Chiefs' defenders share one trait: They tackle the football. Kansas City tied for third in the AFC with 38 takeaways, (21 interceptions and 17 fumble recoveries).

PASSING DEFENSE

Talent aside, the thing that concerns offensive coordinators most about the Dallas Cowboys' defense is its team speed, the ability to stay with receivers in coverage and to run down ball carriers (*linebacker* Darrin Smith caught the Packers' Sterling Sharpe from behind on a 48-yard reception two weeks ago in an NFC Divisional Playoff Game).

Because of their speed, the Cowboys keep their pass defense basic. They don't blitz often. Instead, the emphasis is on a ferocious pass rush led by Tony Tolbert (the team leader with 7½ sacks), Jim Jeffcoat (6 sacks), and Charles Haley, who led Dallas in quarterback pressures (28) despite missing two games with a disc problem.

KEY STATS

- The Cowboys' defense, first in yards allowed in 1992, fell to 10th in 1993. But they actually improved when it counted most, allowing only 21 total touchdowns to set a club record and rank second in the NFL.
- Dallas's defense gave up only 14 touchdowns through the air in 1993, the fourth-lowest total in the league.
- The defense has a Smith, too: Cornerback Kevin Smith tied for second in the NFC with 6 interceptions.
- Opponents completed 334 passes against Dallas's defense, but they did not get very far, averaging only 10 yards per completion.

The Cowboys have a trio of young and lightning-quick linebackers who can get into coverage. The youngest is Smith, a rookie from Miami who started 13 regular-season games and finished fourth on the team in tackles. As linebackers go, Smith is no giant (6-1, 227 pounds), but size is not a prerequisite for Dallas linebackers. Middle linebacker Ken Norton, who made the NFC Pro Bowl team this year, is 6-2 and weighs 240, and weakside starter Dixon Edwards checks in at 6-1, 222.

Cornerback Kevin Smith tied for second in the NFC with 6 interceptions. Free safety Thomas Everett, a seven-year veteran who was acquired from Pittsburgh in a 1992 trade that solidified the secondary, had a pair of interceptions and was named to the NFC Pro Bowl team.

Strong safety Darren Woodson, the second-leading tackler (155) on the team behind Norton (159), and right cornerback Larry Brown round out a competent secondary that helped Dallas finish tenth in the NFL in pass defense.

The Cowboys' defense allowed just 1 offensive touchdown or less in 12 of 16 regular-season games and gave up only 16 in the last 15 games.

Great speed. Great defense.

James D. Smith

Thomas Everett: the brains of the Dallas secondary

Figure this...

- The leading interceptor on the 49ers is Michael McGruder, a non-starting free-agent Nickel back who played a total of three years in the CFL and with Green Bay and Miami before he signed with San Francisco in 1992.
- Quarterback Steve Young had as many regular-season tackles (2) as backup defensive end Larry Roberts.
- Karl Wilson, the starting right end, wasn't included in the 1993 media guide (he signed as a free agent during the season).
- Martin Harrison is listed as the fourth defensive end on the 49ers' depth chart, but was second on the team with 6 sacks. The sack leader (with 10½) is tackle Dana Stubblefield, a 302-pound rookie from Kansas.
- The 49ers' pass defense ranked sixteenth in the NFL, gave up almost 200 passing yards per game, and was hit for 23 touchdown passes.
- This is the same defense that held the New York Giants out of the end zone in the divisional playoffs.

Bob Rosato

Tim McDonald helped stabilize an inexperienced defense.

This enigmatic group gets its leadership from linebacker Bill Romanowski and strong safety Tim McDonald, who ranked one-two in tackles. Romanowski had 3 sacks and McDonald, a free-agent acquisition from Phoenix in the offseason, had 3 interceptions and was named to the NFC Pro Bowl team for the fourth time in his seven-year pro football career.

KEY STATS

- The 49ers' pass defense improved from twenty-sixth in 1992 to fifteenth in 1993, thanks largely to the addition of free agent strong safety Tim McDonald and the emergence of free safety Merton Hanks.
- The 49ers allowed almost 200 passing yards per game, but part of that can be attributed to their offense, which scored so much that the 49ers' opponents were forced to pass early and often. San Francisco's defense faced 564 pass attempts in 1993, the most of any NFC team.

Stubblefield and left end Dennis Brown (5½ sacks) key a pass rush that produced 44 sacks during the regular season.

The 49ers are a zone-coverage team, rarely venturing into man-for-man coverage. Cornerbacks Eric Davis and Don Griffin, both of whom have 4.5 speed, combined for 7 interceptions. Davis also led the team with 21 passes defensed.

McDonald and Merton Hanks (3 interceptions) team up at the safety positions to give San Francisco a pair of hard-hitting deep defenders.

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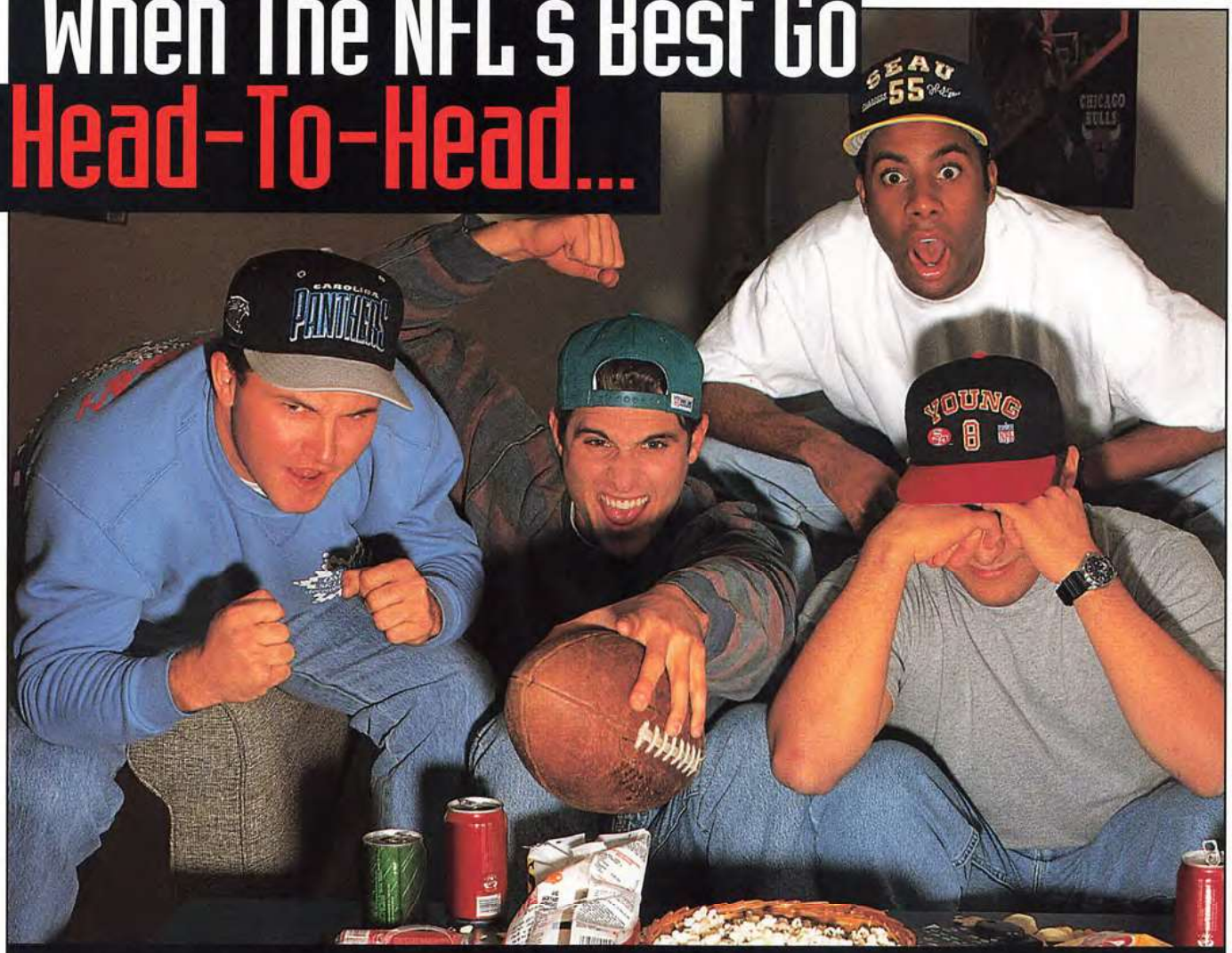

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RUSHING DEFENSE

The mark of a sound defense is its ability to adjust when the game plan isn't working. The Bills demonstrated their adaptability in their victory against the Raiders in the AFC Divisional Playoff Game. After allowing Los Angeles a halftime total of 98 rushing yards, Buffalo made the switch from a 7- to an 8-man front. Against the revised alignment, Los Angeles gained only 12 yards on the ground in the second half.

Buffalo's NFL rank in rushing defense (twenty-first) is deceiving. Have no doubts about it—this group is aggressive, alert (recovering an NFL-high 24 fumbles), and deep.

KEY STATS

- The Bills allowed just 2 running plays of more than 25 yards, topped by the 35-yard scramble of Houston quarterback Warren Moon.
- Buffalo had a league-high 24 fumble recoveries.
- Linebacker Marvcus Patton helped fill the hole left by the loss of free agents Shane Conlan and Carlton Bailey, recording 118 tackles to rank second on the team and leading Buffalo with 4 forced fumbles.
- Because of the Hurry-Up offense, the Bills' defense faced 500 running plays in 1993, the sixth most in the NFL.

The basic Buffalo defensive alignment is a 3-4 set featuring a front line of Jeff Wright at nose tackle and Phil Hansen and six-time Pro Bowl selection Bruce Smith at the ends. The outside linebackers are Darryl Talley and Cornelius Bennett, who also has been voted to six Pro Bowls; the inside linebackers are Marvcus Patton and Mark Maddox or Keith Goganious.

Talley, the team's leading tackler who plays every defensive down, and Patton (second in tackles) are exceptional in pursuit of ball carriers; Patton, for example, already had made 12 tackles with two minutes yet to play in the first *half* of the Raiders playoff game.

Tony Tomsic

Darryl Talley picked up the slack when free agents departed.

Against a strong running team, the Bills shift into a wide 4-3 by moving Bennett forward into a down lineman position. The linebackers play off the line, ready to pursue or attack. For additional run defense support, strong safety Henry Jones plays up to the side the offense is expected to attack. This wide eight-man front alignment serves to position a defender over every gap and often creates a mismatch between Smith and the tight end assigned to block him.

Buffalo stays in its base 3-4 in short-yardage situations, with Bennett and Talley moving up to provide pressure from the outside.

There's nothing fancy about the Chiefs' defense. They don't stunt a lot, they aren't known as a blitzing team, and they don't give opposing offenses complex alignments or looks. What Kansas City *does* do is give opposing offenses fits.

The Chiefs' defense is particularly effective against the rush. Kansas City ranked ninth in the NFL in that category (sixth in the AFC), allowed an average of 101.3 rushing yards per game, and limited opponents to 100 or fewer yards per game nine times, including four games of 60 or fewer rushing yards. In the AFC Divisional Playoff Game, the Chiefs held the high-powered Oilers to 39 yards on the ground.

Kansas City's defense began as a 3-4, then evolved into a 4-3. Joe Phillips and Dan Saleaumua man the middle of the front line at the tackles. Saleaumua plays off the line of scrimmage to get behind Phillips and provide pursuit. Extremely nimble for a 315-pounder, Saleaumua returned a fumble 16 yards for a touchdown this season.

Darrell Sandles

Dan Saleaumua casts a shadow as long as his name.

Neil Smith, voted to his second consecutive Pro Bowl, plays one end and Derrick Thomas, a Pro Bowl choice after each of his five seasons, plays the other end as a "rushbacker." He often plays the open side of the field, though he and Smith will swap sides to confuse line-blocking schemes. While the front four doesn't dominate the line of scrimmage, it penetrates and disrupts plays, and is adept at stripping the ball and causing fumbles.

Three of the Chiefs top five tacklers are middle linebacker Tracy Simien (who led the team with 105 tackles), and outside linebackers Tracy Rogers (third with 94) and Lonnie Marts (fifth with 73). On short-yardage and goal-line situations, Jaime Fields and Darren Mickell also come in to help out at linebacker, replacing two defensive backs. Safeties Kevin Ross and Martin Bayless (second and fourth in tackles, respectively) and Bennie Thompson and Charles Mincy also are active hitters who force the run well.

KEY STATS

- The Chiefs' rushing defense held nine opponents to 100 or fewer yards, and held four to 60 or fewer yards.
- Kansas City allowed only 101.3 rushing yards per game, their best performance since they gave up 95.5 yards per game in 1971.
- The Chiefs' opponents averaged 3.58 yards per carry, the lowest figure since 1981 (3.45).
- In their five losses, the Chiefs allowed 702 rushing yards, an average of 140.4 yards per game. In their 11 victories, they gave up only 83.5 rushing yards per game.

RUSHING DEFENSE

It's not Doomsday, but it's close. This Dallas defense doesn't have a catchy nickname like its famous counterpart of the 1970s. It is just as effective, however.

After leading the league in both total defense and rushing defense in 1992, the Cowboys slipped to tenth overall and eleventh against the run this season. Despite that drop, one statistic is more telling: Dallas allowed only 14.3 points per game in 1993, down nearly a point from a year ago. This year's defensive unit gave up more yards, particularly on the ground, but opponents rarely cracked the end zone.

KEY STATS

- The Cowboys' rushing defense dropped from first in 1992 to eleventh in 1993.
- Dallas allowed 116 rushing yards per game in its four losses and 98.9 in its 12 victories.
- Perseverance was the key for the four teams that defeated Dallas in 1993: They averaged nearly 32 rushing attempts, as compared to the Cowboys' victims, who attempted only 24 rushes.
- Dallas allowed only 7 rushing touchdowns in 1993, the second-lowest figure in the NFL.

In fact, Dallas's defense allowed just 21 touchdowns. Only four opponents managed to reach the end zone more than once. And in each of their final six regular-season games, the Cowboys did not allow a single touchdown in the first half. Meanwhile, that generally enabled Dallas's offense to score enough points to put the game out of reach, a script that was followed in the divisional playoff victory over Green Bay.

Three defenders made the Pro Bowl: linebacker Ken Norton, tackle Russell Maryland, and safety Thomas Everett.

In this age of specialization, Norton is a throwback—a middle linebacker who is on the field for all downs and every situation. Norton began the season as an outside linebacker, but was shifted to the middle early. The move suited him well. He led Dallas with 159 tackles. Dixon Edwards and rookie Darrin Smith man the outside.

Maryland is a solid run stuffer who had 56 tackles, though a sprained ankle kept him out of the lineup against the Packers (he was replaced by Leon Lett). The ends are Tony Tolbert and Charles Haley. Tolbert, the team's leading sacker, also led the defensive linemen with 84 tackles. Haley has been hampered by back problems.

Strong safety Darren Woodson (155 tackles) and free safety Everett (97) both provide effective run support from the secondary.

Bob Rosato

Ken Norton can cover all the turf between the sidelines.

Until the playoffs, at least, the 49ers' defensive unit did not have coach George Seifert's signature on it.

As San Francisco's defensive coordinator during its Super Bowl-winning seasons in 1984 and 1988, and again as head coach in 1989, Seifert oversaw units that ranked among the league's best, particularly against the run (third in both 1988 and 1989, seventh in 1984). This season, the 49ers rated a paltry fifteenth overall, sixteenth against the run. Opponents pushed them around for 112.5 rushing yards per game.

Injuries—most notably the loss of tenacious run-stopper Kevin Fagan midway through the season—and inconsistency contributed to the statistical slide. But at midseason, the 49ers shifted from a 3-4 to a more simplified 4-3. By season's end, this young defense was much improved. San Francisco allowed opponents only 90.8 yards per game on the ground the last four games of the season, then shut down Rodney Hampton and the Giants' top-ranked rushing offense in the divisional playoffs.

Up front, the 49ers are big, averaging 291 pounds on the line. Tackle Dana Stubblefield (302 pounds) made a big splash with his 10½ sacks, but the rookie also was good enough against the run to play nose tackle in the 3-4, and led the defensive linemen with 64 tackles. End Karl Wilson was signed when Fagan was injured and three weeks later was in the starting lineup. Dennis Brown (290) mans the other end. Ted Washington (295) is a tackle.

The linebackers—Bill Romanowski, Mike Walter, and John Johnson—are steady, if not spectacular. Romanowski led the squad with 105 tackles.

Tim McDonald provides run support from his strong safety position. McDonald, an intimidating hitter in the mold of former 49ers defensive back Ronnie Lott, recorded 91 tackles after signing as a free agent in the offseason. He was named to his fourth Pro Bowl. Free safety Merton Hanks had 71 tackles.

Bob Rosato

Rookie Dana Stubblefield: 302 pounds of welcome addition

KEY STATS

- The 49ers gave up a league-low 6 rushing touchdowns in 1993.
- San Francisco allowed an average of 4.5 yards per rushing attempt, the worst figure in the NFL.
- The 49ers' run defense improved somewhat after a midseason switch from the 3-4 alignment to a 4-3 defense.
- None of the four defensive linemen who finished 1993 as starters were regulars in 1992.

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SPECIAL TEAMS

Steve Tasker is the undisputed leader of the Bills' special teams, and considered by many in the NFL to be the best special-teams player in the league. Tasker, a backup wide receiver, was selected to his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl (and fifth overall) this year as the AFC special-teams player. He made such an impact in last year's Pro Bowl that he was named the player of the game after blocking a field-goal attempt and recovering a fumble.

Jonathan Daniel

Steve Christie is excellent from within 50 yards.

Big plays have become routine for Tasker. He has blocked 6 kicks in his career and has accumulated 160 tackles on kick coverage. In this year's AFC Divisional Playoff against the Raiders, Tasker caught a short kickoff and returned it 67 yards to the Raiders' 1-yard line to set up Buffalo's first touchdown.

The kicking duties are handled by Steve Christie. He finished eighth in the AFC with 105 points on 36 of 37 extra points and 23 of 32 field goals. Christie, who had the NFL's longest field goal in 1993 (59 yards), is an excellent long-range kicker. He has converted 6 of 12 career attempts from more than 50 yards.

Punter Chris Mohr (40.4 yard average—twelfth in the AFC) may not have the strongest leg in the NFL, but he does get outstanding hang time on his kicks, which helps explain why the Bills allowed only 8.5 yards per return (fourth best in the AFC). Mohr, who never has had a punt blocked in his three years with the Bills, also is excellent at placing the ball inside the opponent's 20-yard line (19 of his 74 punts in 1993 landed inside the 20).

Rookie Russell Copeland, who handles both the punt and kickoff returns, averaged only 8.8 yards per punt return (eighth best in the AFC) and 18.2 yards per kickoff return (tenth). He does have sure hands and 4.5 speed over 40 yards, and he returned 1 punt 47 yards for a touchdown.

Backup defensive lineman Mark Pike led the Bills with 22 special-teams tackles.

KEY STATS

- Buffalo did not place a player in the NFL's top 10 kickoff returners or punt returners.
- Punter Chris Mohr's 40.4-yard average was the third worst in the AFC.
- Steve Tasker's 67-yard kickoff return against the Raiders in the playoffs was the longest in the Bills' postseason history.
- Tasker, with his fifth Pro Bowl selection in 1993, trails only wide receiver Andre Reed on the Bills' all-time list.

If there is one special-teams position where the Chiefs have a decided advantage in experience over most other teams, it is with kicker with Nick Lowery. In his fourteenth season, Lowery is the third-leading scorer in NFL history with 1,473 points. He trails only Pro Football Hall of Fame members George Blanda (2,002 points) and former Chiefs great Jan Stenerud (1,699). He also is the most accurate field-goal kicker in NFL history with a percentage of 80.05 (329 of 411).

Lowery had another outstanding season in 1993, finishing seventh in the AFC with 106 points (his NFL-record eleventh and record-tying sixth consecutive 100-point season).

Despite his age (37), Lowery remains one of the NFL's best long-range kickers having connected on 20 of 45 field goals of 50 yards or longer in his career (44 percent).

Steady Bryan Barker is the Chiefs' punter. He finished seventh in the AFC this year with a 42.6-yard average.

If Kansas City needs a big play from its special teams, don't be surprised if it comes from cornerback Albert Lewis, who has blocked an incredible 11 punts in his career.

Darrell Sandles

Nick Lowery: one of the great kickers in NFL history

The Chiefs are one of the best teams in the league at blocking kicks. This season, Kansas City blocked 5 attempts (2 extra points, 2 field goals, and 1 punt).

A problem area for the Chiefs could be returning punts. Dale Carter, who finished sixth in the AFC with a 9.1-yard average, broke his arm in the last game of the regular season. Rookie Danan Hughes and J.J. Birden now share the role in place of Carter.

John Stephens, who signed as a free agent during the season, and Todd McNair are the kickoff returners. This also could be an area of concern for Marty Schottenheimer, since Stephens (5) and McNair (1) returned only 6 kickoffs during the regular season.

KEY STATS

- The Chiefs blocked 5 kicks in 1993 (2 field-goal attempts, 2 extra-point attempts, and 1 punt), their highest total since 1990 when they had 7. They added a key blocked punt in their playoff victory over Pittsburgh.
- Cornerback Albert Lewis blocked the eleventh punt of his career, recovering it for a touchdown in a victory over the Seattle Seahawks.
- Defensive end Neil Smith blocked 2 field-goal attempts in a 17-14 victory over San Diego.
- Kicker Nick Lowery recorded his eleventh 100-point season to extend his NFL record.

SPECIAL TEAMS

There have been times this season when the Cowboys' special teams performed with the crisp execution that head coach Jimmy Johnson demands of everyone on his team. But there also have been times when the play of the special teams has given Johnson every reason to pull out his perfectly coiffured hair.

That never was more apparent than during Dallas's Thanksgiving Day game with Miami in week 13. Rookie return specialist Kevin Williams gave the Cowboys a 14-3 lead with a brilliant 64-yard punt return for a touchdown. On the other hand, defensive end Leon Lett absentmindedly tried to recover the ball after his team had blocked a field-goal attempt by Miami in the closing seconds of the game. Lett muffed the recovery, and the Dolphins got the ball at the Cowboys' 1-yard line, eventually turning a 14-13 Dallas victory into a 16-14 loss.

KEY STATS

- Dallas was the only team in the NFL to rank in the top nine in punt-return average (10.3 yards, ninth), kickoff-return average (21.3 yards, seventh), opponents' punt-return average (5.3, second), and opponents' kickoff-return average (18.6, ninth).
- Veteran kicker Eddie Murray, signed as a free agent before the third game of the 1993 season, set a Dallas record with 28 field goals.
- Murray, 37, has not lost any leg strength—he made 3 of 5 field goals from 50 or more yards.
- Bill Bates, in his eleventh year, led Dallas with 25 special-teams tackles.

The Cowboys have tried to perfect their special teams all season. In week 3, they replaced second-year kicker Lin Elliot, who had been erratic, with 13-year veteran Eddie Murray. Murray responded by finishing third in the NFC with 122 points, making all 38 of his extra-point attempts, and missing only 5 of 33 field-goal tries.

Williams had some early-season jitters—his 2 fumbles on returns played a big role in the Cowboys' opening-day loss to Washington—but he finished strong, placing third in the NFC in punt-return average (10.6) and sixth in kickoff-return average (22.2). Against the Redskins in week 17, he had a 62-yard punt return for a score.

Doug DeVos

Kevin Williams: The speedy rookie twice found the end zone on returns.

Dallas's coverage units, led by Brock Marion and Kenneth Gant, are extremely fast and fearless.

Punter John Jett ranked third in the NFC with a net average of 37.7 yards, placing 22 of his 56 punts inside the opponent's 20-yard line.

Last offseason the 49ers tried to improve their kicking game, but couldn't find anyone to unseat incumbent kicker Mike Cofer. Cofer, who has been with San Francisco since 1988, has had a tumultuous career, and the 1993 season was no different. He made only 61.5 percent (16 of 26) of his field-goal attempts—the third-lowest percentage in the NFL. In a 37-34 overtime loss at home to the Eagles in the final regular-season game, Cofer missed 2 field-goal attempts, including a 32-yard effort in overtime. Cofer, whose career field-goal percentage is only 67.2, scored 107 points this year, mostly due to an NFL-high 59 extra points (he attempted 61).

Confidence, or the lack thereof, has been the major reason for his troubles.

KEY STATS

- Dexter Carter emerged as a standout returner, ranking second in the NFC with a 12.1-yard average on 34 punt returns. He also averaged 19.8 yards on 25 kickoff returns.
- The 49ers punted just 42 times in 1993, by far the fewest in the NFL.
- Kicker Mike Cofer made 61.5 percent of his field-goal attempts—only Washington's Chip Lohmiller (57.1 percent) and New England's Scott Sisson (53.8) were less accurate.
- The 49ers' punt-coverage unit has not given up a return for a touchdown since 1985.

The most successful unit of the 49ers' special teams is the punt-return team, led by exciting speedster Dexter Carter. Carter, San Francisco's first-round draft choice in 1990, spent time as a kickoff returner his first three years, but he had a spectacular year in his first season as the team's punt returner. He finished second in the NFC and fourth in the NFL with a 12.1-yard average on 34 attempts, including a 72-yard scamper for a touchdown in a 38-19 victory over Minnesota.

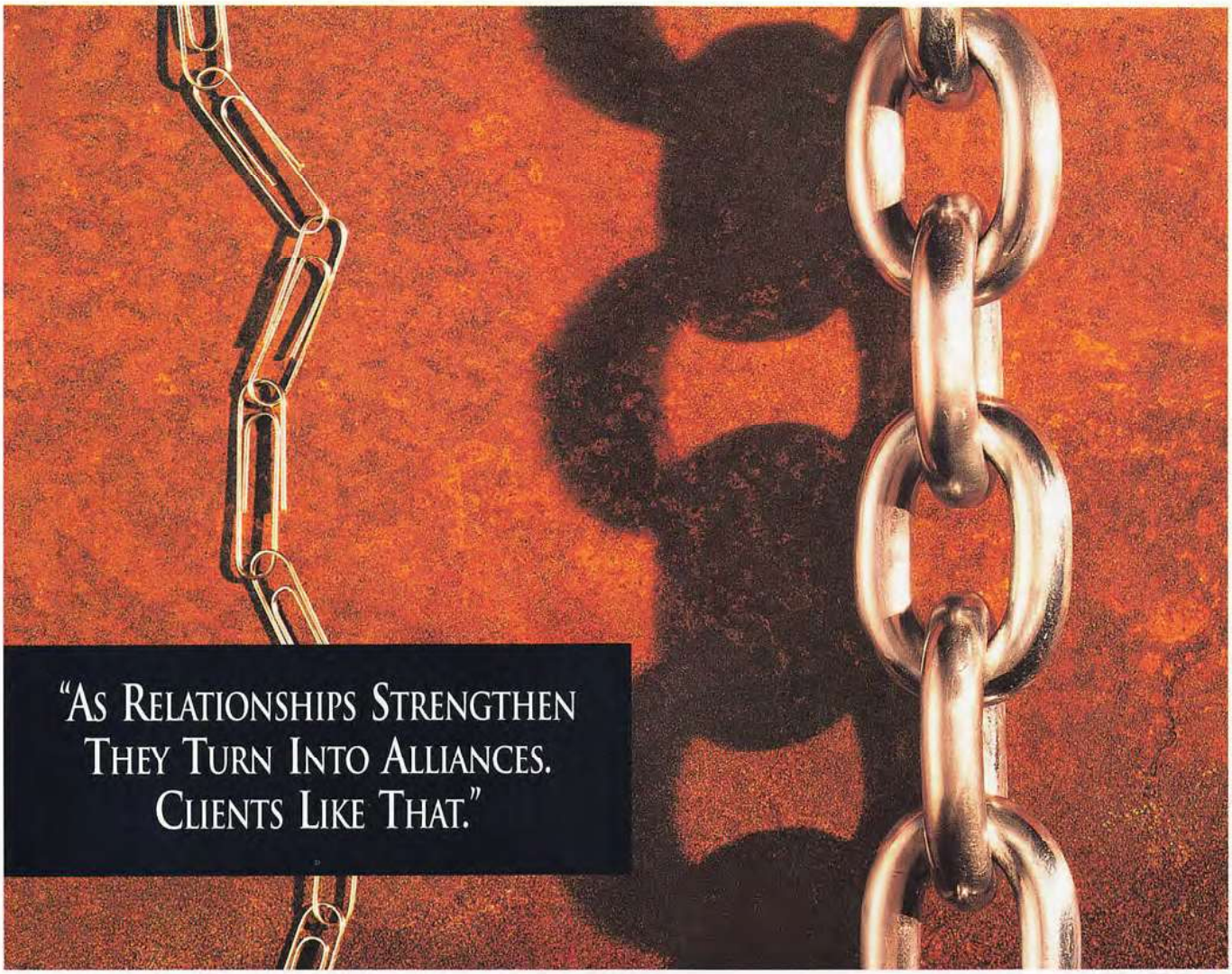
Normally sure-handed, Carter did have problems holding onto the ball in a 27-24 loss to Atlanta, muffing a punt return that led to a Falcons' touchdown, and fumbling a kickoff return that led to Atlanta's game-winning field goal.

San Francisco's coverage units, average at best, are paced by safety Damien Russell (11 tackles), linebacker Darin Jordan (8), and wide receiver Nate Singleton (7).

The punting game has struggled, with Klaus Wilmsmeyer netting only 34.5 yards—the fifth-lowest average in the NFL; his 11 punts inside the 20-yard line were the fewest of any regular NFL punter.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Exciting things happen when Dexter Carter fields a punt.



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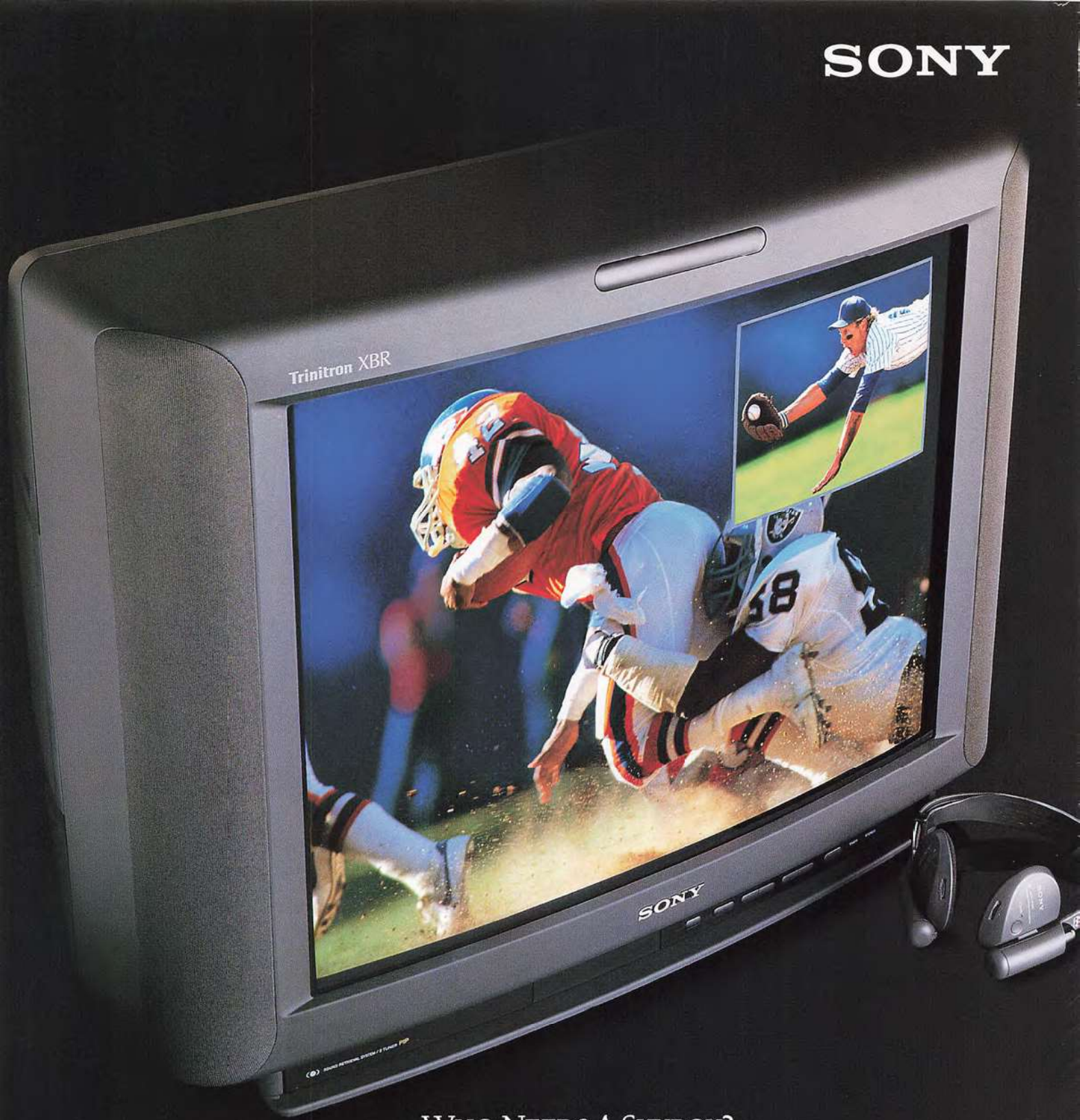

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How They Were Built

Bills

Year	Draft (35)	Trade (2)	Free Agents (15) Waivers (1)
1980 11-6 1st, AFC East	G Jim Ritcher (1)		
1983 8-8 3rd, AFC East	QB Jim Kelly (1B) LB Darryl Talley (2)		
1985 2-14 5th, AFC East	DE Bruce Smith (1A) QB Frank Reich (3A) WR Andre Reed (4A)	TE Pete Metzelaars (from Seattle)	
1986 4-12 4th, AFC East	DE Mark Pike (7B)		C Kent Hull S Mark Kelso WR Steve Tasker (waivers)
1987 7-8 4th, AFC East	CB Nate Odomes (2A) TE Keith McKeller (9) T Howard Ballard (11)	LB Cornelius Bennett (from Indianapolis)	
1988 13-5 1st, AFC East	RB Thurman Thomas (2) NT Jeff Wright (8E)		
1989 9-8 1st, AFC East	WR Don Beebe (3)		G John Davis RB Kenneth Davis QB Gale Gilbert C Adam Lingner
1990 15-4 AFC Champions	CB James Williams (1) RB Carwell Gardner (2) G-T Glenn Parker (3) RB Eddie Fuller (4) LB Marvcus Pattor (8) NT Mike Lodish (10)		
1991 15-4 AFC Champions	S Henry Jones (1) DE Phil Hansen (2) WR Brad Lamb (8) LB Mark Maddox (9)		P Chris Mohr
1992 14-5 AFC Champions	T John Fina (1) DL James Patton (2) LB Keith Goganious (3) S Matt Darby (5) RB Nate Turner (6) S Kurt Schulz (7) WR Chris Walsh (9)		TE Rob Awalt K Steve Christie T Jerry Crafts LB Richard Harvey
1993 13-4 1st, AFC East	CB Thomas Smith (1) DL John Parrella (2) WR Russell Copeland (4) C Mike Devlin (5A) CB Mickey Washington		DE Oliver Barnett WR Bill Brooks LB Monty Brown DB Jerome Henderson

Chiefs

Year	Draft (22)	Trade (2)	Free Agents (29) Waivers (0)
1980 8-8 3rd, AFC West			K Nick Lowery
1983 6-10 4th, AFC West	CB Albert Lewis (3)		
1984 8-8 4th, AFC West	T John Alt (1B) CB Kevin Ross (7)		
1985 6-10 5th, AFC West	TE Jonathan Hayes (2)		
1988 4-11-1 5th, AFC West	DE Neil Smith (1)		
1989 8-7-1 2nd, AFC West	LB Derrick Thomas (1) RB Todd McNair (8B)		DT Dan Saleaumua
1990 11-6 2nd, AFC West	C Tim Grunhard (2) WR Fred Jones (4) T Derrick Graham (5A) G Dave Szott (7)		P Bryan Barker WR J.J. Birden LB Lonnie Marts LB Tracy Rogers
1991 11-7 2nd, AFC West	RB Harvey Williams (1) T Joe Valerio (2) WR Tim Barnett (3) S Charles Mincy (5)		RB Kimble Anders LB Tracy Simien
1992 10-7 2nd, AFC West	QB Matt Blundin (2) LB Erick Anderson (7) DT Darren Mickell (2, Supp.)		S Martin Bayless TE Keith Cash WR Willie Davis QB Dave Krieg DT Joe Phillips S Bennie Thompson
1993 13-5 1st, AFC West	G Will Shields (3) LB Jaime Fields (4) G-T Lindsay Knapp (5) WR Danan Hughes (7)	QB Joe Montana (from San Francisco) CB Jay Taylor (from Phoenix)	RB Marcus Allen TE Mike Bartrum DE Pellom McDaniels T Reggie McElroy S-CB Erik McMillan DT Tim Newton CB Bruce Pickens T Ricky Siglar RB John Stephens LB Santo Stephens RB Ernie Thompson DE Keith Traylor G Danny Villa S Tim Watson CB Robert Williams

How They Were Built

Cowboys

Year	Draft (28)	Trade (6)	Free Agents (17) Waivers (2)
1983 12-5 2nd, NFC East	DE Jim Jeffcoat (1)		T Mark Tuinei S Bill Bates
1986 7-9 3rd, NFC East			G Nate Newton
1987 7-8 2nd, NFC East	G-T Kevin Gogan (8)		
1988 3-13 5th, NFC East	WR Michael Irvin (1) LB Ken Norton (2) DT Chad Hennings (11)		
1989 1-15 5th, NFC East	QB Troy Aikman (1) RB Daryl Johnston (2) DE Tony Tolbert (4)		
1990 7-9 4th, NFC East	RB Emmitt Smith (1) DT Jimmie Jones (3) S Kenneth Gant (9)	G John Gesek (from L.A. Raiders) G-C Dale Hellestrae (from L.A. Raiders)	TE Jay Novacek S James Washington
1991 12-6 2nd, NFC East	DT Russell Maryland (1A) WR Alvin Harper (1B) LB Dixon Edwards (2) LB Godfrey Myles (3A) T Erik Williams (3C) DT Leon Lett (7) CB Larry Brown (12)	DT Tony Casillas (From Atlanta)	
1992 16-3 Super Bowl XXVII Champions	CB Kevin Smith (1A) LB Robert Jones (1B) S Darren Woodson (2B) WR Tim Daniel (11)	S Thomas Everett (from Pittsburgh) DE Charles Haley (from San Francisco)	C Frank Cornish RB Derrick Gainer WR Tyrone Williams
1993 13-4 1st, NFC East	WR Kevin Williams (2A) LB Darrin Smith (2B) RB Derrick Lassic (4A) T Ron Stone (4B) S Brock Marion (7) CB Dave Thomas (8A)	CB-S Elvis Patterson (from L.A. Raiders)	RB Tommie Agee RB Lincoln Coleman S Joe Fishback TE Scott Galbraith QB Jason Garrett P John Jett QB Bernie Kosar TE Joey Mickey (waivers) K Eddie Murray T James Parrish DE Matt Vanderbeek (waivers)

49ers

Year	Draft (33)	Trade (1)	Free Agents (19) Waivers (0)
1983 11-7 1st, NFC West	G Jesse Sapolu (11)		
1984 18-1 NFL Champions	G Guy McIntyre (3)		LB Mike Walter
1985 10-7 2nd, NFC West	WR Jerry Rice (1)		
1986 10-6-1 1st, NFC West	DE Larry Roberts (2) RB Tom Rathman (3A) WR John Taylor (3C) T Steve Wallace (4B) CB Don Griffin (6)		
1987 13-3 1st, NFC West	T Harris Barton (1A)	QB Steve Young (from Buccaneers)	TE Brent Jones
1988 13-6 NFL Champions	LB Bill Romanowski (3)		K Mike Cofer
1989 17-2 NFL Champions	LB Antonio Goss (12)		QB Steve Bono TE Jamie Williams
1990 15-3 1st, NFC West	RB Dexter Carter (1) DE Dennis Brown (2A) CB Eric Davis (2B) DE Martin Harrison (10)		
1991 10-6 2nd, NFC West	NT-DE Ted Washington (1) RB Ricky Watters (2A) LB John Johnson (2C) S Merton Hanks (5A) T Harry Boatswain (5B)		QB Bill Musgrave FB Adam Walker
1992 15-3 1st, NFC West	S Dana Hall (1) RB Amp Lee (2) G Brian Bollinger (3) DE Mark Thomas (4A) S Damien Russell (6)		FB Marc Logan CB Michael McGruder G Ralph Tamm WR Odessa Turner P Klaus Wilmsmeyer
1993 12-5 1st, NFC West	DT Dana Stubblefield (1A) DE Todd Kelly (1B) CB Adrian Hardy (2) DE Artie Smith (5) G-C Chris Dalman (6) DE Troy Wilson (7) QB Elvis Grbac (8) DE Karl Wilson		WR Sanjay Beach TE John Brandes LB Ravin Caldwell LB Larry Kelm S Tim McDonald T Alec Millen WR Nate Singleton

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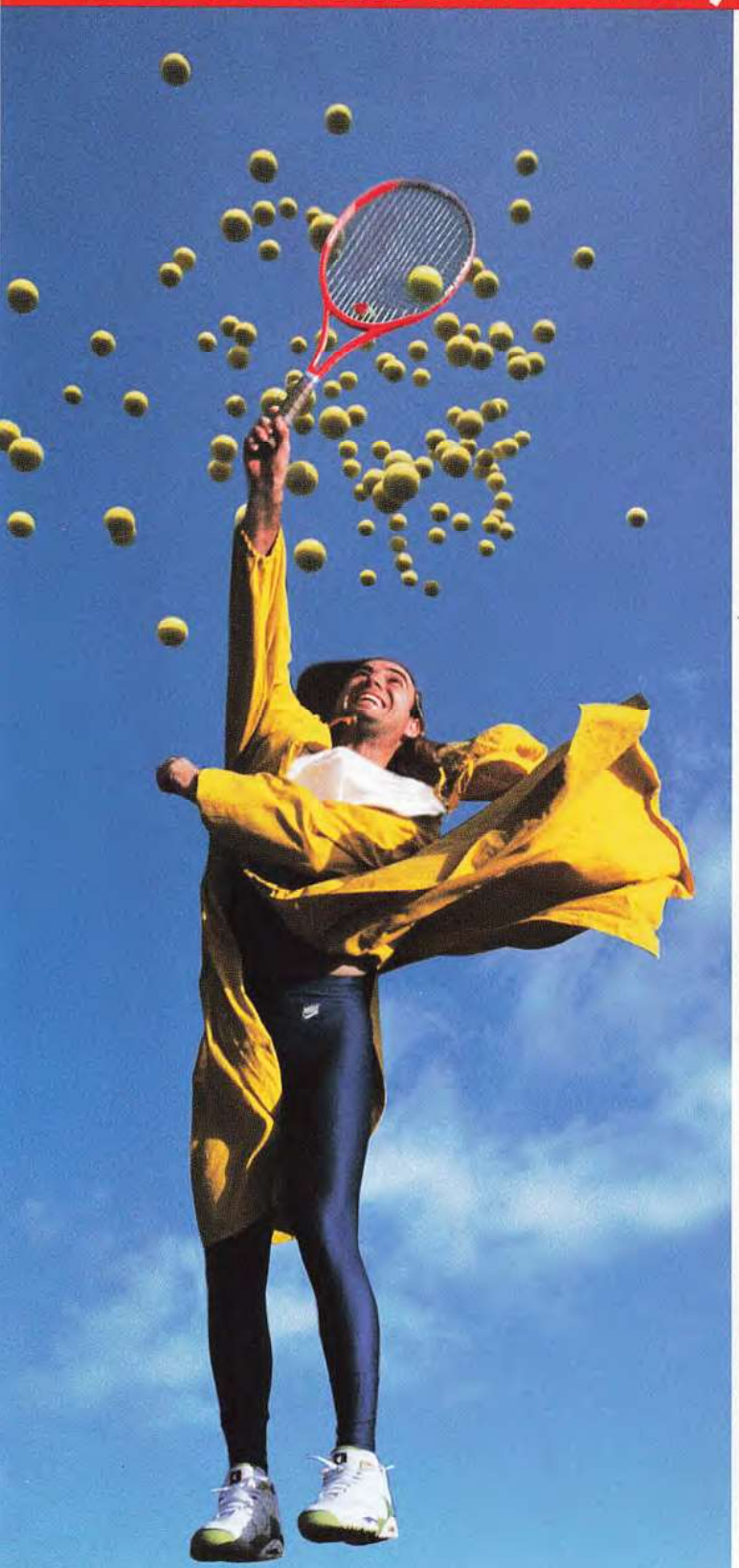

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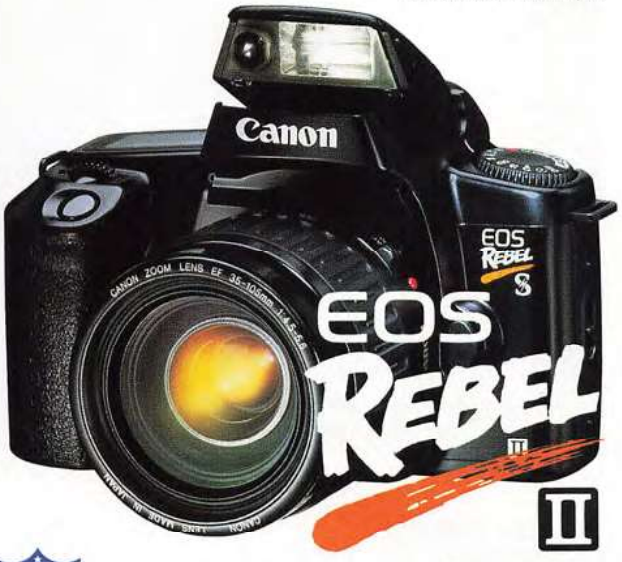

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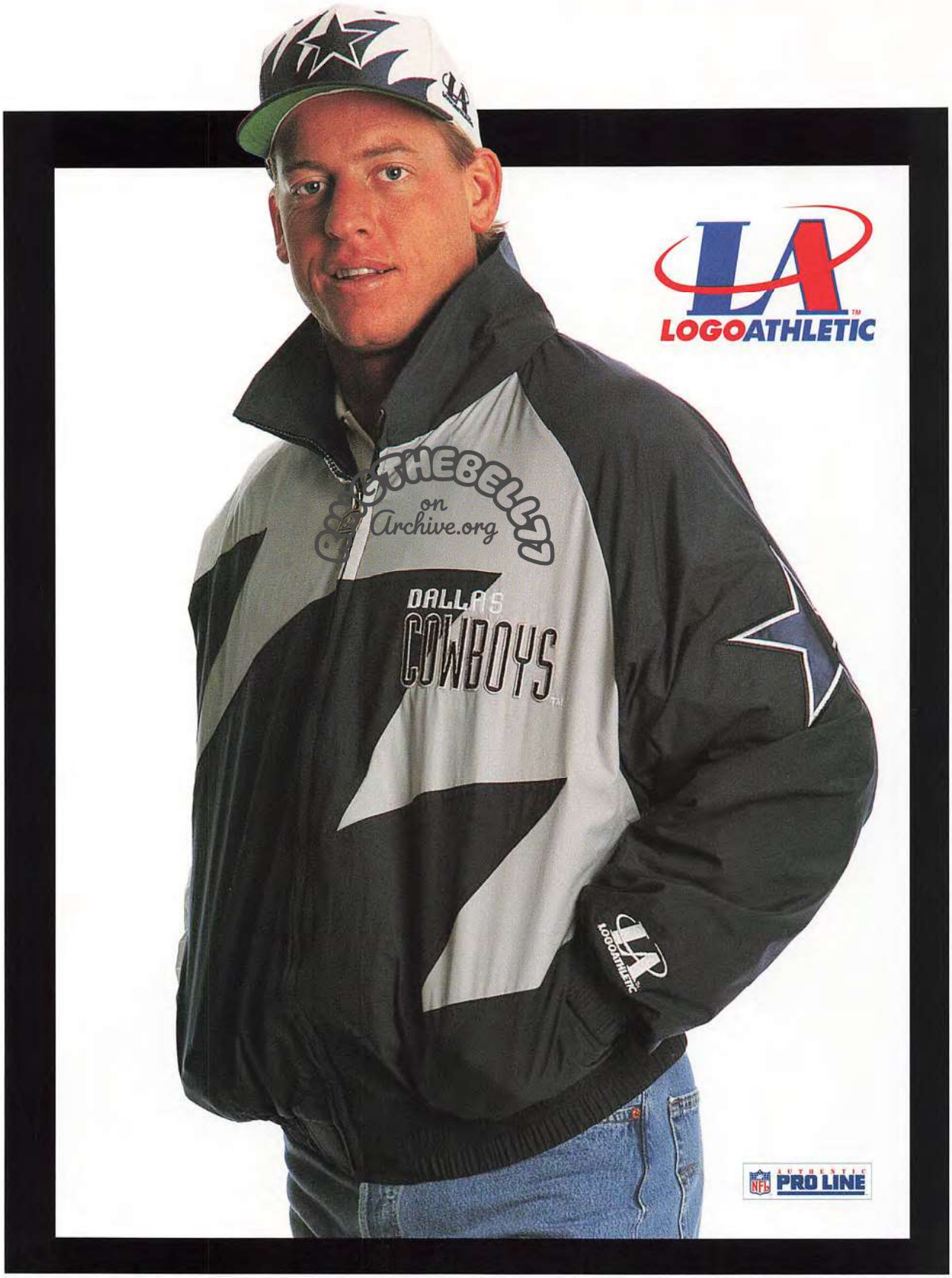

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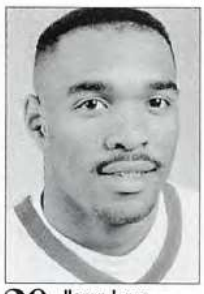
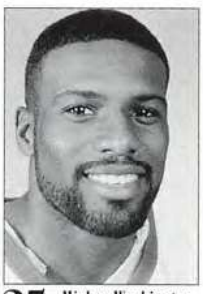
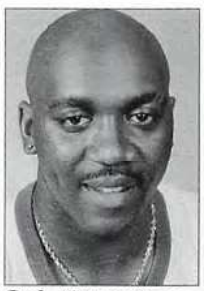

20 Henry Jones
Safety


25 Mickey Washington
Cornerback

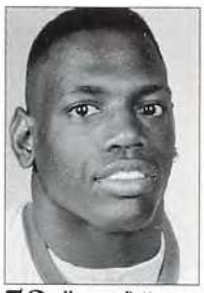

34 Thurman Thomas
Running Back

35 Carwell Gardner
Running Back

37 Nate Odomes
Cornerback

38 Mark Kelso
Safety

51 Jim Ritcher
Guard


53 Marvcus Patton
Linebacker

55 Mark Maddox
Linebacker

56 Darryl Talley
Linebacker

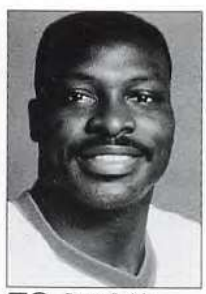
65 John Davis
Guard

67 Kent Hull
Center

70 John Fina
Tackle

74 Glenn Parker
Guard

75 Howard Ballard
Tackle


78 Bruce Smith
Defensive End

80 Bill Brooks
Wide Receiver

82 Don Beebe
Wide Receiver

83 Andre Reed
Wide Receiver

88 Pete Metzelaars
Tight End

89 Steve Tasker
Wide Receiver

90 Phil Hansen
Defensive End

91 Jeff Wright
Nose Tackle

97 Cornelius Bennett
Linebacker

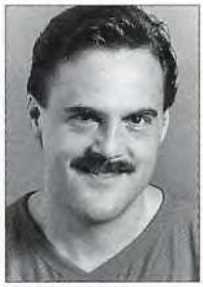
CHIEFS PLAYERS AND STAFF

Lamar Hunt
Owner

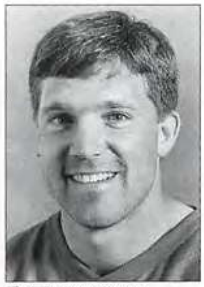
Carl Peterson
General Manager

Marty Schottenheimer
Head Coach

4 Bryan Barker
Punter



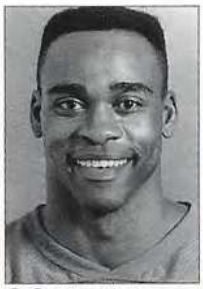
8 Nick Lowery
Kicker



17 Dave Krieg
Quarterback

19 Joe Montana
Quarterback

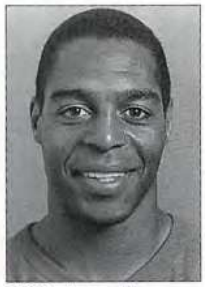
27 Jay Taylor
Cornerback



29 Albert Lewis
Cornerback

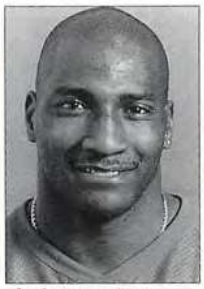
30 Martin Bayless
Safety

31 Kevin Ross
Safety-Cornerback

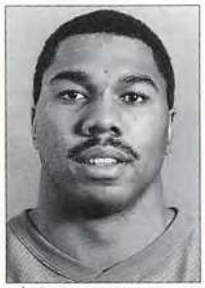


32 Marcus Allen
Running Back

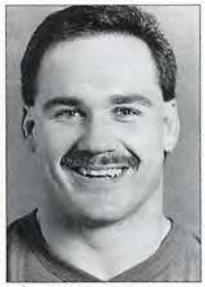
38 Kimble Anders
Running Back



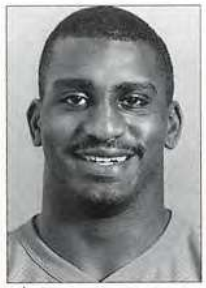
46 Bennie Thompson
Safety



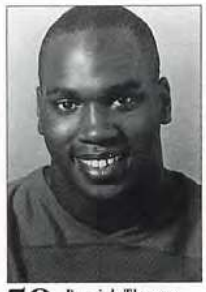
51 Lonnie Marts
Linebacker



52 Tracy Rogers
Linebacker



54 Tracy Simien
Linebacker



58 Derrick Thomas
Linebacker

61 Tim Grunhard
Center

66 Ricky Siglar
Tackle

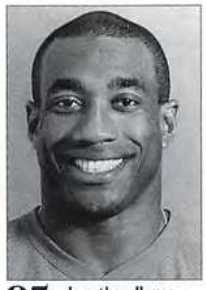
68 Will Shields
Guard

75 Joe Phillips
Defensive Tackle

76 John Alt
Tackle

79 Dave Szott
Guard

84 Willie Davis
Wide Receiver



85 Jonathan Hayes
Tight End

88 J.J. Birden
Wide Receiver

89 Keith Cash
Tight End

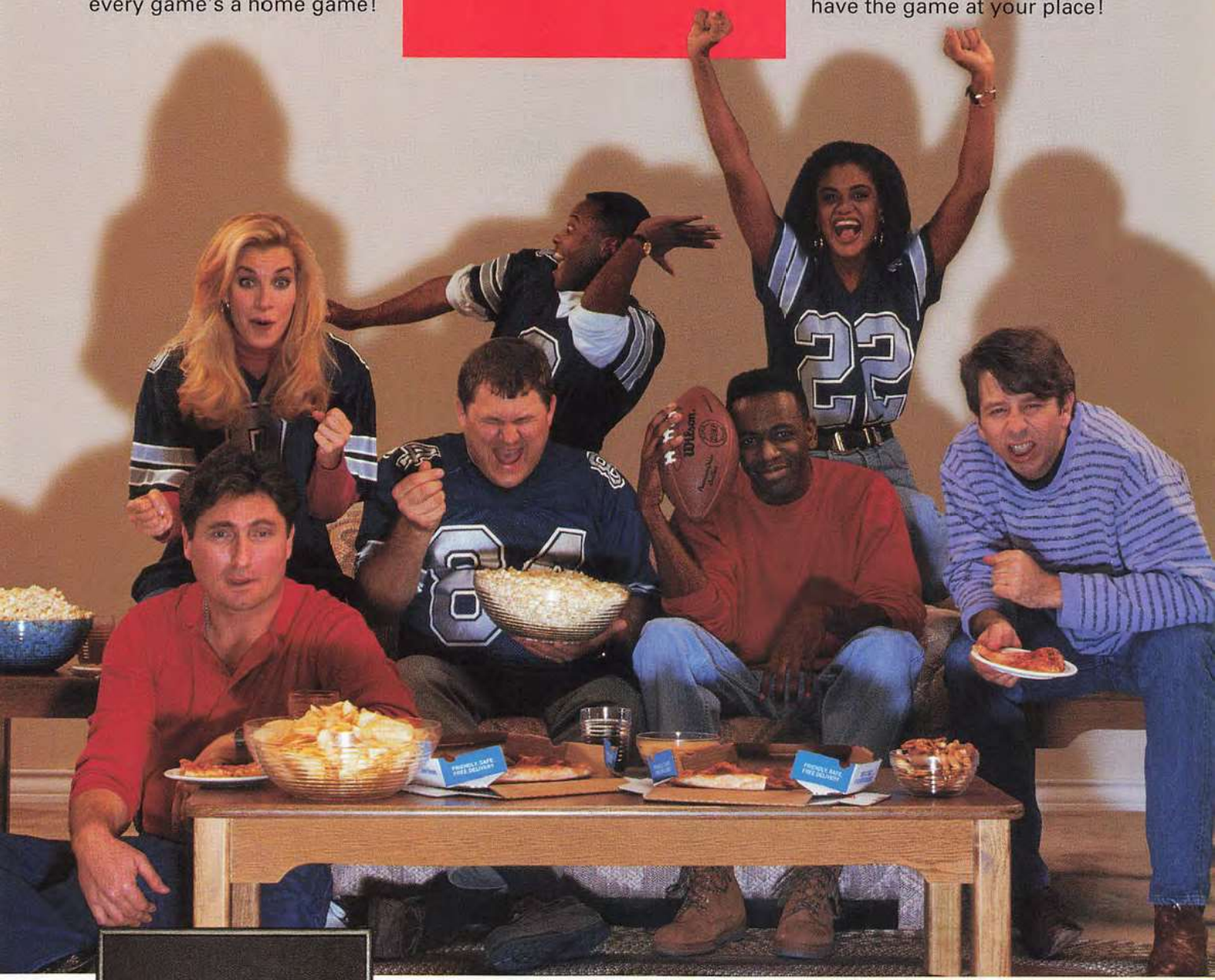
90 Neil Smith
Defensive End

97 Dan Saleaumua
Defensive Tackle

How would great seats for *every* game sound to you? SUPER! Radio Shack has your season ticket to all the action! We know it takes more than a 3-inch TV speaker to really get wrapped up in a game. With our Optimus Home Theater Surround Sound system, anywhere you sit is a great seat and every game's a home game!

The Home Team.

Whether you're adding to your present system or starting from scratch, we have the equipment you need. And with 6600 stores in our lineup, you're sure to find us in your neighborhood. So, don't worry if you can't make it to next year's Super Bowl. With a little help from your Radio Shack team, you can always have the game at your place!



OPTIMUS® Home Theater Sound:
Because You Really Want to Be There!

Radio Shack®

BUFFALO BILLS
ALBPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College
86	Awalt, Rob	TE	6-5	238	29	7	San Diego State
75	Ballard, Howard	T	6-6	325	29	6	Alabama A&M
77	Barnett, Oliver	DE	6-3	292	27	4	Kentucky
82	Beebe, Don	WR	5-11	180	28	5	Chadron State
97	Bennett, Cornelius	LB	6-2	238	28	7	Alabama
80	Brooks, Bill	WR	6-0	189	29	8	Boston University
96	Brown, Monty	LB	6-0	228	23	R	Ferris State
2	Christie, Steve	K	6-0	185	25	4	William & Mary
85	Copeland, Russell	WR	6-0	200	21	R	Memphis State
66	Crafts, Jerry	T	6-6	333	25	2	Louisville
43	Darby, Matt	S	6-1	200	24	2	UCLA
65	Davis, John	G	6-4	310	28	6	Georgia Tech
23	Davis, Kenneth	RB	5-10	208	31	8	Texas Christian
62	Devlin, Mike	C	6-1	293	24	R	Iowa
70	Fina, John	T	6-4	282	24	2	Arizona
33	Fuller, Eddie	RB	5-9	201	25	4	Louisiana State
35	Gardner, Carwell	RB	6-2	232	26	4	Louisville
7	Gilbert, Gale	QB	6-3	210	31	8	California
50	Goganious, Keith	LB	6-2	239	24	2	Penn State
90	Hansen, Phil	DE	6-5	275	25	3	North Dakota State
52	Harvey, Richard	LB	6-1	235	26	4	Tulane
36	Henderson, Jerome	CB	5-10	189	24	3	Clemson
67	Hull, Kent	C	6-5	278	32	8	Mississippi State
20	Jones, Henry	S	5-11	197	24	3	Illinois
12	Kelly, Jim	QB	6-3	218	33	8	Miami
38	Kelso, Mark	S	5-11	185	30	8	William & Mary
81	Lamb, Brad	WR	5-10	171	25	3	Anderson (Indiana)
63	Lingner, Adam	C	6-4	268	32	11	Illinois
73	Lodish, Mike	NT	6-3	272	26	4	UCLA
55	Maddox, Mark	LB	6-1	233	25	3	Northern Michigan
84	McKeller, Keith	TE	6-4	242	29	7	Jacksonville State
88	Metzelaars, Pete	TE	6-7	250	33	12	Wabash
9	Mohr, Chris	P	6-5	215	27	4	Alabama
37	Odomes, Nate	CB	5-10	188	28	7	Wisconsin
74	Parker, Glenn	G	6-5	305	27	4	Arizona
92	Parrella, John	DE	6-3	296	23	R	Nebraska
99	Patton, James	NT	6-3	287	23	2	Texas
53	Patton, Marvcus	LB	6-2	225	26	4	UCLA
94	Pike, Mark	DE	6-4	272	29	8	Georgia Tech
83	Reed, Andre	WR	6-2	190	29	9	Kutztown
14	Reich, Frank	QB	6-4	210	31	9	Maryland
51	Ritcher, Jim	G	6-3	273	35	13	North Carolina State
24	Schulz, Kurt	S	6-1	206	24	R	Eastern Washington
28	Smith, Thomas	CB	5-11	188	22	R	North Carolina
78	Smith, Bruce	DE	6-4	273	30	9	Virginia Tech
56	Talley, Darryl	LB	6-4	235	33	11	West Virginia
89	Tasker, Steve	WR	5-9	183	31	9	Northwestern
34	Thomas, Thurman	RB	5-10	198	27	6	Oklahoma State
21	Turner, Nate	RB	6-1	255	24	2	Nebraska
87	Walsh, Chris	WR	6-1	185	24	1	Stanford
25	Washington, Mickey	CB	5-9	191	25	3	Texas A&M
29	Williams, James	CB	5-10	178	26	4	Fresno State
91	Wright, Jeff	NT	6-3	270	30	6	Central Missouri State

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College
32	Allen, Marcus	RB	6-2	210	33	12	USC
76	Alt, John	T	6-8	307	31	10	Iowa
38	Anders, Kimble	RB	5-11	221	27	3	Houston
50	Anderson, Erick	LB	6-1	235	25	2	Michigan
4	Barker, Bryan	P	6-1	187	29	4	Santa Clara
82	Barnett, Tim	WR	6-1	200	25	3	Jackson State
87	Bartrum, Mike	TE	6-4	234	23	R	Marshall
30	Bayless, Martin	S	6-2	219	31	10	Bowling Green
88	Birden, J.J.	WR	5-9	165	28	6	Oregon
14	Blundin, Matt	QB	6-6	233	24	2	Virginia
89	Cash, Keith	TE	6-4	240	24	3	Texas
84	Davis, Willie	WR	6-0	172	26	2	Central Arkansas
59	Fields, Jaime	LB	5-11	230	23	R	Washington
74	Graham, Derrick	T	6-4	306	26	4	Appalachian State
61	Grunhard, Tim	C	6-2	299	25	4	Notre Dame
85	Hayes, Jonathan	TE	6-5	257	31	9	Iowa
83	Hughes, Danan	WR	6-1	201	23	R	Iowa
80	Jones, Fred	WR	5-9	180	26	4	Grambling
65	Knapp, Lindsay	G-T	6-6	280	23	R	Notre Dame
17	Krieg, Dave	QB	6-1	204	35	14	Milton
29	Lewis, Albert	CB	6-2	195	33	11	Grambling
8	Lowery, Nick	K	6-4	207	37	14	Dartmouth
51	Marts, Lonnie	LB	6-1	230	25	4	Tulane
77	McDaniels, Pellom	DE	6-3	278	25	1	Oregon State
70	McElroy, Reggie	T	6-6	290	33	12	West Texas State
24	McMillan, Erik	S-CB	6-2	200	28	6	Missouri
48	McNair, Todd	RB	6-1	197	28	5	Temple
92	Mickell, Darren	DT	6-4	280	23	2	Florida
42	Mincy, Charles	S	5-11	197	22	3	Washington
19	Montana, Joe	QB	6-2	205	37	15	Notre Dame
96	Newton, Tim	DT	6-0	269	30	8	Florida
75	Phillips, Joe	DT	6-5	300	30	8	Southern Methodist
39	Pickens, Bruce	CB	5-11	190	25	3	Nebraska
52	Rogers, Tracy	LB	6-2	241	26	4	Fresno State
31	Ross, Kevin	S-CB	5-9	185	31	10	Temple
97	Saleaumua, Dan	DT	6-0	300	29	7	Arizona State
68	Shields, Will	G	6-2	296	22	R	Nebraska
66	Siglar, Ricky	T	6-7	304	27	2	San Jose State
54	Simien, Tracy	LB	6-1	250	26	3	Texas Christian
90	Smith, Neil	DE	6-4	273	27	6	Nebraska
21	Stephens, John	RB	6-1	215	27	6	Northwestern Louisiana
53	Stephens, Santo	LB	6-4	232	24	1	Temple
79	Szott, Dave	G	6-4	290	26	4	Penn State
27	Taylor, Jay	CB	5-10	170	26	5	San Jose State
58	Thomas, Derrick	DE	6-3	242	26	5	Alabama
46	Thompson, Bennie	S	6-0	216	30	4	Grambling
45	Thompson, Ernie	RB	5-11	257	24	2	Indiana
94	Traylor, Keith	DE	6-2	290	24	3	Central State (Ohio)
73	Valerio, Joe	G-C	6-5	295	23	3	Pennsylvania
72	Villa, Danny	G	6-5	300	29	7	Arizona State
26	Watson, Tim	S	6-1	213	23	R	Howard
44	Williams, Harvey	RB	6-2	215	26	3	Louisiana State
40	Williams, Robert	CB	5-10	186	31	7	Baylor

DEPTH CHART

Offense							
WR	— 82	Don Beebe	80	Bill Brooks	85	Russell Copeland	
			81	Brad Lamb	87	Chris Walsh	
LT	— 70	John Fina	66	Jerry Crafts			
LG	— 51	Jim Richter	66	Jerry Crafts			
C	— 67	Kent Hull	65	John Davis	62	Mike Devlin	
RG	— 65	John Davis	74	Glenn Parker	63	Adam Lingner	
					66	Jerry Crafts	
RT	— 75	Howard Ballard	66	Jerry Crafts	66	Jerry Crafts	
TE	— 88	Pete Metzelaars	84	Keith McKeller	86	Rob Awalt	
WR	— 83	Andre Reed	85	Russell Copeland	89	Steve Tasker	
QB	— 12	Jim Kelly	14	Frank Reich	7	Gale Gilbert	
RB	— 34	Thurman Thomas	23	Kenneth Davis	33	Eddie Fuller	
RB	— 35	Carwell Gardner	21	Nate Turner			
Defense							
LE	— 90	Phil Hansen	77	Oliver Barnett	92	John Parrella	
NT	91	Jeff Wright	73	Mike Lodish	99	James Patton	
RE	— 78	Bruce Smith	94	Mark Pike	92	John Parrella	
LOLB	— 97	Cornelius Bennett	52	Richard Harvey			
LILB	— 53	Marvcus Patton	96	Monty Brown			
RILB	— 55	Mark Maddox	50	Keith Goganious			
ROLB	— 56	Darryl Talley	52	Richard Harvey			
LCB	— 29	James Williams	36	James Henderson	28	Thomas Smith	
RCB	— 37	Nate Odomes	25	Mickey Washington			
SS	— 20	Henry Jones	24	Kurt Schulz			
FS	— 38	Mark Kelso	43	Matt Darby			
Specialists							
K	— 9	Chris Mohr					
P	— 2	Steve Christie					
KO	— 2	Steve Christie					
H	— 14	Frank Reich	7	Gale Gilbert			
PR	— 85	Russell Copeland	25	Mickey Washington	80	Bill Brooks	
KR	— 85	Russell Copeland	23	Kenneth Davis			
PC	— 63	Adam Lingner	86	Rob Awalt			
KC	— 63	Adam Lingner	86	Rob Awalt			

DEPTH CHART

Offense							
WR	— 88	J.J. Birden	80	Fred Jones	83	Danan Hughes	
LT	— 76	John Alt	74	Derrick Graham	64	Tom Ricketts	
LG	— 79	Dave Szott	72	Danny Villa	65	Lindsay Knapp	
C	— 61	Tim Grunhard	73	Joe Valerio	72	Danny Villa	
RG	— 68	Will Shields	72	Danny Villa	73	Joe Valerio	
RT	— 66	Ricky Siglar	74	Derrick Graham	70	Reggie McElroy	
TE	— 85	Jonathan Hayes	89	Keith Cash	87	Mike Bartrum	
WR	— 84	Willie Davis	82	Tim Barnett			
QB	— 19	Joe Montana	17	Dave Krieg	14	Matt Blundin	
RB	— 32	Marcus Allen	48	Todd McNair	44	Harvey Williams	
RB	— 38	Kimble Anders	45	Ernie Thompson	21	John Stephens	
Defense							
LE	— 90	Neil Smith	92	Darren Mickell	94	Keith Traylor	
LT	— 75	Joe Phillips	96	Tim Newton	77	Pellom McDaniels	
RT	— 97	Dan Saleaumua	96	Tim Newton			
RE	— 58	Derrick Thomas	92	Darren Mickell	77	Pellom McDaniels	
LLB	— 52	Tracy Rogers	59	Jaime Fields	50	Erick Anderson	
MLB	— 54	Tracy Simien	50	Erick Anderson			
RLB	— 51	Lonnie Marts	53	Santo Stephens			
LCB	— 29	Albert Lewis	39	Bruce Pickens	40	Robert Williams	
RCB	— 27	Jay Taylor	39	Bruce Pickens	24	Erik McMillan	
SS	— 30	Martin Bayless	46	Bennie Thompson	26	Tim Watson	
FS	— 31	Kevin Ross	42	Charles Mincy	24	Erik McMillan	
Specialists							
P	— 4	Bryan Barker	87	Mike Bartrum			
K	— 8	Nick Lowery	4	Bryan Barker			
KO	— 8	Nick Lowery	4	Bryan Barker			
H	— 4	Bryan Barker	17	Dave Krieg			
PR	— 83	Danan Hughes	88	J.J. Birden	42	Charles Mincy	
KR	— 21	John Stephens	83	Danan Hughes	80	Fred Jones	
PC	— 73	Joe Valerio	72	Danny Villa	61	Tim Grunhard	
KC	— 72	Danny Villa	73	Joe Valerio	61	Tim Grunhard	

"You tested what against *who?*"

In a recent independent test, the Oldsmobile Eighty Eight LSS was driven 100,000 miles against Acura Legend L and Lexus ES 300. How'd the Oldsmobile do? Well, it must have done pretty well—or we wouldn't be doing this ad. For more information, call toll-free 1-800-LSS-1235.

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AFC Starting Lineups

Bills Offense

82	Don Beebe	WR
70	John Fina	LT
51	Jim Ritcher	LG
67	Kent Hull	C
65	John Davis	RG
75	Howard Ballard	RT
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE
83	Andre Reed	WR
80	Bill Brooks	WR
12	Jim Kelly	QB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB

Bills Defense

90	Phil Hansen	LE
91	Jeff Wright	NT
78	Bruce Smith	RE
97	Cornelius Bennett	LOLB
53	Marvcus Patton	LILB
55	Mark Maddox	RILB
56	Darryl Talley	ROLB
29	James Williams	LCB
37	Nate Odomes	RCB
20	Henry Jones	SS
38	Mark Kelso	FS

Chiefs Offense

88	J.J. Birden	WR
76	John Alt	LT
79	Dave Szott	LG
61	Tim Grunhard	C
68	Will Shields	RG
66	Ricky Siglar	RT
86	Jonathan Hayes	TE
84	Willie Davis	WR
19	Joe Montana	QB
32	Marcus Allen	RB
38	Kimble Anders	RB

Chiefs Defense

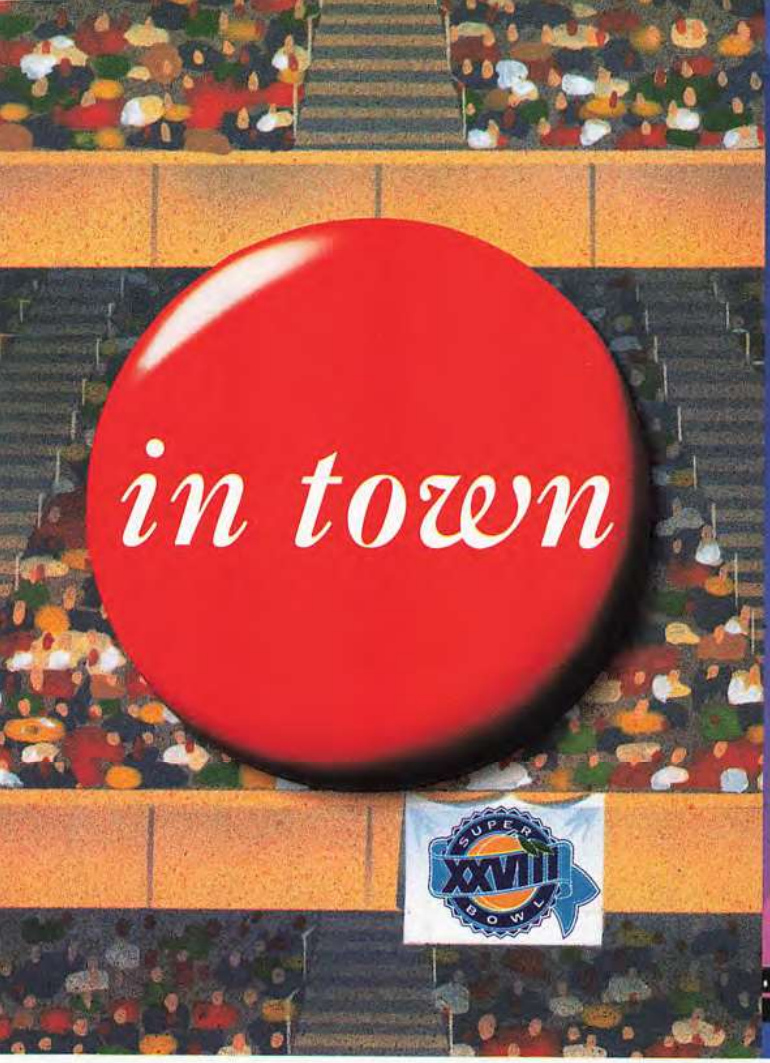
90	Neil Smith	LE
75	Joe Phillips	LT
97	Dan Saleaumua	RT
58	Derrick Thomas	RE
52	Tracy Rogers	LLB
54	Tracy Simien	MLB
51	Lonnie Marts	RLB
29	Albert Lewis	LCB
27	Jay Taylor	RCB
30	Martin Bayless	SS
31	Kevin Ross	FS

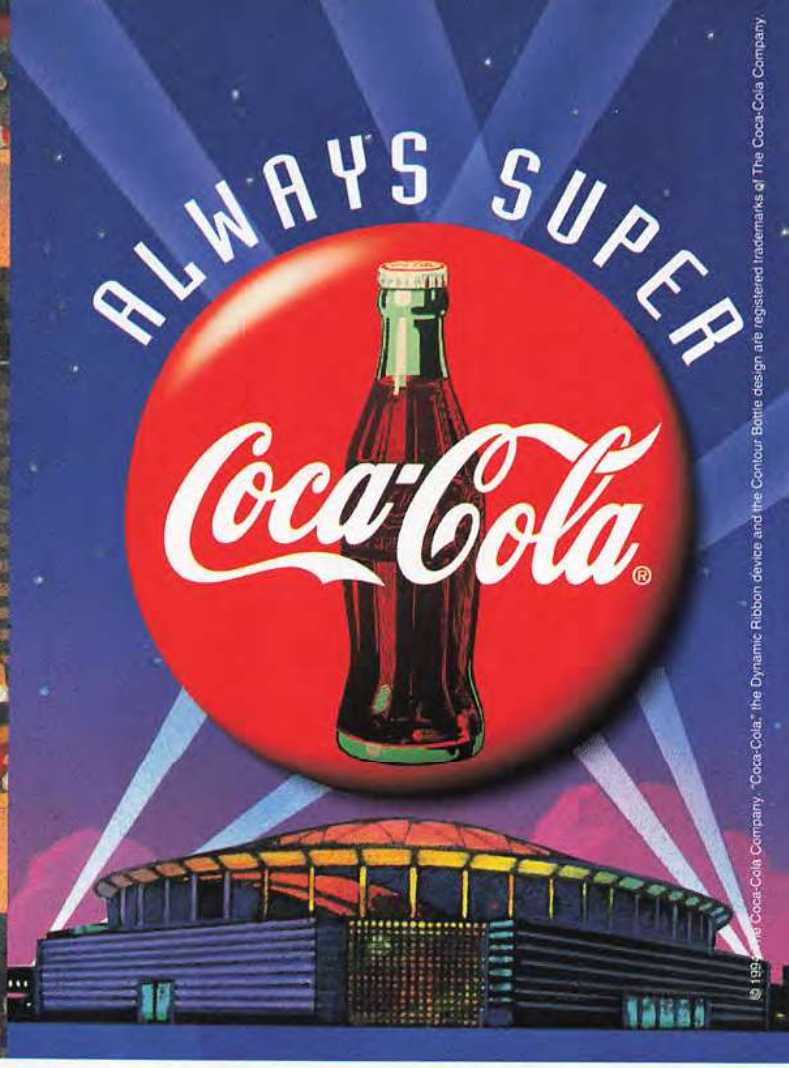
NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
2	Steve Christie	K
7	Gale Gilbert	QB
9	Chris Mohr	P
12	Jim Kelly	QB
14	Frank Reich	QB
20	Henry Jones	S
21	Nate Turner	RB
23	Kenneth Davis	RB
24	Kurt Schulz	S
25	Mickey Washington	CB
28	Thomas Smith	CB
29	James Williams	CB
33	Eddie Fuller	RB
34	Thurman Thomas	RB
35	Carwell Gardner	RB
36	Jerome Henderson	CB
37	Nate Odomes	CB
38	Mark Kelso	S
43	Matt Darby	S
50	Keith Goganious	LB
51	Jim Ritcher	G
52	Richard Harvey	LB
53	Marvcus Patton	LB
55	Mark Maddox	LB
56	Darryl Talley	LB
62	Mike Devlin	C
63	Adam Lingner	C
65	John Davis	G
66	Jerry Crafts	T
67	Kent Hull	C
70	John Fina	T
73	Mike Lodish	NT
74	Glenn Parker	G
75	Howard Ballard	T
77	Oliver Barnett	DE
78	Bruce Smith	DE
80	Bill Brooks	WR
81	Brad Lamb	WR
82	Don Beebe	WR
83	Andre Reed	WR
84	Keith McKeller	TE
85	Russell Copeland	WR
86	Rob Awalt	TE
87	Chris Walsh	WR
88	Pete Metzelaars	TE
89	Steve Tasker	WR
90	Phil Hansen	DE
91	Jeff Wright	NT
92	John Parrella	DE
94	Mark Pike	DE
96	Monty Brown	LB
97	Cornelius Bennett	LB
99	James Patton	NT

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
4	Bryan Barker	P
8	Nick Lowery	K
14	Matt Blundin	QB
17	Dave Krieg	QB
19	Joe Montana	QB
21	John Stephens	RB
24	Erik McMillan	S-CB
26	Tim Watson	S
27	Jay Taylor	CB
29	Albert Lewis	CB
30	Martin Bayless	S
31	Kevin Ross	S-CB
32	Marcus Allen	RB
38	Kimble Anders	RB
39	Bruce Pickens	CB
40	Robert Williams	CB
42	Charles Mincy	S
44	Harvey Williams	RB
45	Ernie Thompson	RB
46	Bennie Thompson	S
48	Todd McNair	RB
50	Erick Anderson	LB
51	Lonnie Marts	LB
52	Tracy Rogers	LB
53	Santo Stephens	LB
54	Tracy Simien	LB
58	Derrick Thomas	DE
59	Jaime Fields	LB
61	Tim Grunhard	C
65	Lindsay Knapp	G-T
66	Ricky Siglar	T
68	Will Shields	G
70	Reggie McElroy	T
72	Danny Villa	G
73	Joe Valerio	G-C
74	Derrick Graham	T
75	Joe Phillips	DT
76	John Alt	T
77	Pellom McDaniels	DE
79	Dave Szott	G
80	Fred Jones	WR
82	Tim Barnett	WR
83	Danan Hughes	WR
84	Willie Davis	WR
85	Jonathan Hayes	TE
87	Mike Bartrum	TE
88	J.J. Birden	WR
89	Keith Cash	TE
90	Neil Smith	DE
92	Darren Mickell	DT
94	Keith Traylor	DE
96	Tim Newton	DT
97	Dan Saleaumua	DT

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NFC Starting Lineups

Cowboys Offense

80	Alvin Harper	WR
71	Mark Tuinei	LT
61	Nate Newton	LG
63	John Gesek	C
66	Kevin Gogan	RG
79	Erik Williams	RT
84	Jay Novacek	TE
88	Michael Irvin	WR
8	Troy Aikman	QB
48	Daryl Johnston	RB
22	Emmitt Smith	RB

Cowboys Defense

92	Tony Tolbert	LE
75	Tony Casillas	LT
67	Russell Maryland	RT
94	Charles Haley	RE
58	Dixon Edwards	LLB
51	Ken Norton	MLB
59	Darrin Smith	RLB
26	Kevin Smith	LCB
24	Larry Brown	RCB
27	Thomas Everett	SS
28	Darren Woodson	FS

49ers Offense

82	John Taylor	WR
74	Steve Wallace	LT
62	Guy McIntyre	LG
61	Jesse Sapolu	C
64	Ralph Tamm	RG
79	Harris Barton	RT
84	Brent Jones	TE
80	Jerry Rice	WR
8	Steve Young	QB
32	Ricky Watters	RB
44	Tom Rathman	RB

49ers Defense

96	Dennis Brown	LE
94	Dana Stubblefield	LT
97	Ted Washington	RT
77	Karl Wilson	RE
55	John Johnson	LLB
99	Mike Walter	MLB
53	Bill Romanowski	RLB
25	Eric Davis	LCB
29	Don Griffin	RCB
46	Tim McDonald	SS
36	Merton Hanks	FS

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
3	Eddie Murray	K
8	Troy Aikman	QB
17	Jason Garrett	QB
18	Bernie Kosar	QB
19	John Jett	P
22	Emmitt Smith	RB
24	Larry Brown	CB
25	Derrick Lassic	RB
26	Kevin Smith	CB
27	Thomas Everett	S
28	Darren Woodson	S
29	Kenneth Gant	S
31	Brock Marion	S
34	Tommie Agee	RB
37	James Washington	S
39	Derrick Gainer	RB
40	Bill Bates	S
41	Dave Thomas	CB
43	Elvis Patterson	CB-S
44	Lincoln Coleman	RB
46	Joe Fishback	S
48	Daryl Johnston	FS
51	Ken Norton	LB
55	Robert Jones	LB
58	Dixon Edwards	LB
59	Darrin Smith	LB
61	Nate Newton	G
62	James Parrish	T
63	John Gesek	G
65	Ron Stone	T
66	Kevin Gogan	G-T
67	Russell Maryland	DT
68	Frank Cornish	C-G
70	Dale Hellestrae	G-C
71	Mark Tuinei	T
75	Tony Casillas	DT
77	Jim Jeffcoat	DE
78	Leon Lett	DE-DT
79	Erik Williams	T
80	Alvin Harper	WR
81	Tim Daniel	WR
83	Joey Mickey	TE
84	Jay Novacek	TE
85	Kevin Williams	WR
86	Tyrone Williams	WR
88	Michael Irvin	WR
89	Scott Galbraith	TE
91	Matt Vanderbeek	LB-DE
92	Tony Tolbert	DE
94	Charles Haley	DE
95	Chad Hennings	DT
97	Jimmie Jones	DE-DT
98	Godfrey Myles	LB

NUMERICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.
6	Mike Cofer	K
8	Steve Young	QB
10	Klaus Wilmsmeyer	P
13	Steve Bono	QB
14	Bill Musgrave	QB
18	Elvis Grbac	QB
22	Amp Lee	RB
25	Eric Davis	CB
26	Michael McGruder	CB
27	Adam Walker	RB
28	Dana Hall	S
29	Don Griffin	CB
32	Ricky Watters	RB
35	Dexter Carter	RB
36	Merton Hanks	CB
38	Damien Russell	S
43	Marc Logan	RB
44	Tom Rathman	RB
45	Adrian Hardy	CB
46	Tim McDonald	S
50	Chris Dalman	G-C
52	Larry Kelm	LB
53	Bill Romanowski	LB
54	Ravin Caldwell	LB
55	John Johnson	LB
56	Martin Harrison	LB
58	Todd Kelly	DE
61	Jesse Sapolu	C
62	Guy McIntyre	G
64	Ralph Tamm	G-C
65	Harry Boatswain	T
71	Brian Bollinger	G
72	Mark Thomas	DE
74	Steve Wallace	T
76	Alec Millen	T
77	Karl Wilson	DE
79	Harris Barton	T
80	Jerry Rice	WR
81	Jamie Williams	TE
82	John Taylor	WR
83	Sanjay Beach	WR
84	Brent Jones	TE
85	John Brandes	TE
86	Odessa Turner	WR
88	Nate Singleton	WR
91	Larry Roberts	DE
92	Troy Wilson	DE
94	Dana Stubblefield	DE
95	Artie Smith	DE
96	Dennis Brown	DE
97	Ted Washington	NT-DE
98	Antonio Goss	LB
99	Mike Walter	LB

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Dallas Cowboys

ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College
34	Agee, Tommie	RB	6-0	235	29	7	Auburn
8	Aikman, Troy	QB	6-4	228	27	5	UCLA
40	Bates, Bill	S	6-1	205	32	11	Tennessee
24	Brown, Larry	CB	5-11	182	24	3	Texas Christian
75	Casillas, Tony	DT	6-3	279	30	8	Oklahoma
44	Coleman, Lincoln	RB	6-1	249	24	R	Baylor
68	Cornish, Frank	C-G	6-4	287	26	4	UCLA
81	Daniel, Tim	WR	5-11	192	24	2	Florida A&M
58	Edwards, Dixon	LB	6-1	222	25	3	Michigan State
27	Everett, Thomas	S	5-9	184	29	7	Baylor
46	Fishback, Joe	S	6-0	212	26	4	Carson-Newman
39	Gainer, Derrick	RB	5-11	228	27	3	Florida A&M
89	Galbraith, Scott	TE	6-2	255	26	4	USC
29	Gant, Kenneth	S	5-11	189	25	4	Albany State
17	Garrett, Jason	QB	6-2	195	26	1	Princeton
63	Gesek, John	G	6-5	285	30	7	Cal State-Sacramento
66	Gogan, Kevin	G-T	6-7	328	29	7	Washington
94	Haley, Charles	DE	6-5	250	29	8	James Madison
80	Harper, Alvin	WR	6-3	208	26	3	Tennessee
70	Hellestrae, Dale	G-C	6-5	275	31	9	Southern Methodist
95	Hennings, Chad	DT	6-6	286	28	2	Air Force
88	Irvin, Michael	WR	6-2	205	27	6	Miami
77	Jeffcoat, Jim	DE	6-5	280	31	11	Arizona State
19	Jett, John	P	6-0	184	25	1	East Carolina
48	Johnston, Daryl	FB	6-2	238	27	5	Syracuse
97	Jones, Jimmie	DE-DT	6-4	284	27	4	Miami
55	Jones, Robert	LB	6-2	237	24	2	East Carolina
18	Kosar, Bernie	QB	6-5	215	30	9	Miami
25	Lassic, Derrick	RB	5-10	188	23	R	Alabama
78	Lett, Leon	DE-DT	6-6	285	25	3	Emporia State
31	Marion, Brock	S	5-11	189	23	R	Nevada-Reno
67	Maryland, Russell	DT	6-1	279	24	3	Miami
83	Mickey, Joey	TE	6-5	274	23	R	Oklahoma
3	Murray, Eddie	K	5-11	195	37	14	Tulane
98	Myles, Godfrey	LB	6-1	242	25	3	Florida
61	Newton, Nate	G	6-3	325	32	8	Florida A&M
51	Norton, Ken	LB	6-2	240	27	6	UCLA
84	Novacek, Jay	TE	6-4	232	31	9	Wyoming
62	Parrish, James	T	6-6	310	25	1	Temple
43	Patterson, Elvis	CB-S	5-11	195	33	10	Kansas
59	Smith, Darrin	LB	6-1	227	23	R	Miami
22	Smith, Emmitt	RB	5-9	209	24	4	Florida
26	Smith, Kevin	CB	5-11	180	23	2	Texas A&M
65	Stone, Ron	T	6-5	309	22	R	Boston College
41	Thomas, Dave	CB	6-2	208	25	R	Tennessee
92	Tolbert, Tony	DE	6-6	263	25	5	Texas-El Paso
71	Tuinei, Mark	T	6-5	305	32	11	Hawaii
91	Vanderbeek, Matt	LB-DE	6-3	243	26	4	Michigan State
37	Washington, James	S	6-1	209	28	6	UCLA
79	Williams, Erik	T	6-6	324	25	3	Central State (Ohio)
85	Williams, Kevin	WR	5-9	192	22	R	Miami
86	Williams, Tyrone	WR	6-5	220	22	1	Western Ontario
28	Woodson, Darren	S	6-1	215	24	2	Arizona State

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	— 80 Alvin Harper	85 Kevin Williams	81 Tim Daniel	
LT	— 71 Mark Tuinei	66 Kevin Gogan	65 Ron Stone	
LG	— 61 Nate Newton	66 Kevin Gogan		
C	— 63 John Gesek	68 Frank Cornish	70 Dale Hellestrae	
RG	— 66 Kevin Gogan	63 John Gesek		
RT	— 79 Erik Williams	66 Kevin Gogan	62 James Parrish	
TE	— 84 Jay Novacek	89 Scott Galbraith	83 Joey Mickey	
WR	— 88 Michael Irvin	86 Tyrone Williams	81 Tim Daniel	
QB	— 8 Troy Aikman	18 Bernie Kosar	17 Jason Garrett	
RB	— 48 Daryl Johnston	39 Derrick Gainer	34 Tommie Agee	
RB	— 22 Emmitt Smith	44 Lincoln Coleman	25 Derrick Lassic	
			39 Derrick Gainer	
DEFENSE				
LE	— 92 Tony Tolbert	77 Jim Jeffcoat	91 Matt Vanderbeek	
LT	— 75 Tony Casillas	97 Jimmie Jones	95 Chad Hennings	
RT	— 67 Russell Maryland	78 Leon Lett	95 Chad Hennings	
RE	— 94 Charles Haley	78 Leon Lett	77 Jim Jeffcoat	
LLB	— 58 Dixon Edwards	98 Godfrey Myles	91 Matt Vanderbeek	
MLB	— 51 Ken Norton	55 Robert Jones		
RLB	— 59 Darrin Smith	55 Robert Jones		
LCB	— 26 Kevin Smith	41 Dave Thomas		
RCB	— 24 Larry Brown	43 Elvis Patterson		
FS	— 27 Thomas Everett	37 James Washington	46 Joe Fishback	
SS	— 28 Darren Woodson	29 Kenneth Gant	31 Brock Marion	
			40 Bill Bates	
SPECIALISTS				
P	— 19 John Jett	3 Eddie Murray		
K	— 3 Eddie Murray	19 John Jett		
KO	— 3 Eddie Murray	19 John Jett		
H	— 84 Jay Novacek	19 John Jett		
PR	— 85 Kevin Williams	26 Kevin Smith		
KR	— 85 Kevin Williams	31 Brock Marion	29 Kenneth Gant	
PC	— 70 Dale Hellestrae	68 Frank Cornish		
KC	— 70 Dale Hellestrae	68 Frank Cornish		

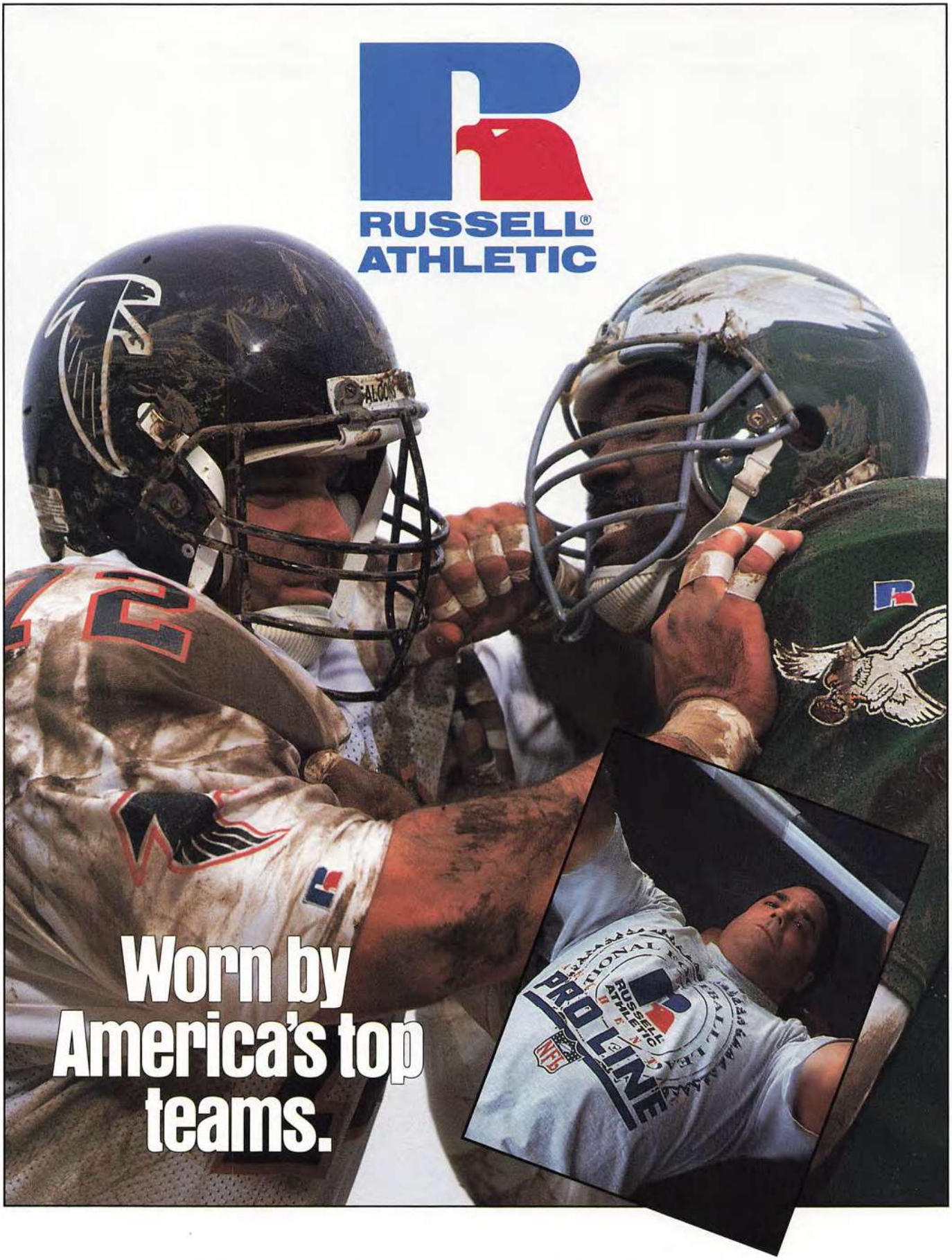
San Francisco 49ers

ALPHABETCAL ROSTER

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	NFL Exp.	College
79	Barton, Harris	T	6-4	286	29	7	North Carolina
83	Beach, Sanjay	WR	6-1	194	27	3	Colorado State
65	Boatswain, Harry	T	6-4	295	24	3	New Haven
71	Bollinger, Brian	G	6-5	285	24	2	North Carolina
13	Bono, Steve	QB	6-4	211	31	9	UCLA
85	Brandes, John	TE	6-2	249	29	7	Cameron
96	Brown, Dennis	DE	6-4	290	26	4	Washington
54	Caldwell, Ravin	LB	6-3	240	30	8	Arkansas
35	Carter, Dexter	RB	5-9	174	26	4	Florida State
6	Cofer, Mike	K	6-1	190	29	6	North Carolina State
50	Dalman, Chris	G-C	6-3	285	23	R	Stanford
25	Davis, Eric	CB	5-11	178	25	4	Jacksonville State
98	Goss, Antonio	LB	6-4	228	27	4	North Carolina
18	Grbac, Elvis	QB	6-5	232	23	R	Michigan
29	Griffin, Don	CB	6-0	180	29	8	Middle Tennessee State
28	Hall, Dana	S	6-2	206	24	2	Washington
36	Hanks, Merton	CB	6-2	185	25	3	Iowa
45	Hardy, Adrian	CB	5-11	194	23	R	Northwestern Louisiana
56	Harrison, Martin	LB	6-5	256	26	3	Washington
55	Johnson, John	LB	6-3	230	25	3	Clemson
84	Jones, Brent	TE	6-4	230	30	7	Santa Clara
58	Kelly, Todd	DE	6-2	259	23	R	Tennessee
52	Kelm, Larry	LB	6-4	240	29	7	Texas A&M
22	Lee, Amp	RB	5-11	200	22	2	Florida State
43	Logan, Marc	RB	6-0	212	28	6	Kentucky
46	McDonald, Tim	S	6-2	215	28	7	Southern California
26	McGruder, Michael	CB	5-10	190	29	4	Kent State
62	McIntyre, Guy	G	6-3	276	32	10	Georgia
76	Millen, Alec	T	6-7	285	23	R	Georgia
14	Musgrave, Bill	QB	6-2	205	26	3	Oregon
44	Rathman, Tom	RB	6-1	232	31	8	Nebraska
80	Rice, Jerry	WR	6-2	200	31	9	Mississippi Valley State
91	Roberts, Larry	DE	6-3	275	30	8	Alabama
53	Romanowski, Bill	LB	6-4	240	27	6	Boston College
38	Russell, Damien	S	6-1	204	23	1	Virginia Tech
61	Sapolu, Jesse	C	6-4	278	32	11	Hawaii
88	Singleton, Nate	WR	5-11	190	25	1	Grambling
95	Smith, Artie	DE	6-4	303	23	R	Louisiana Tech
94	Stubblefield, Dana	DE	6-2	302	23	R	Kansas
64	Tamm, Ralph	G-C	6-4	280	27	6	West Chester
82	Taylor, John	WR	6-1	185	31	8	Delaware State
72	Thomas, Mark	DE	6-5	273	24	2	North Carolina State
86	Turner, Odessa	WR	6-3	215	29	7	Northwestern Louisiana
27	Walker, Adam	RB	6-1	210	25	1	Pittsburgh
74	Wallace, Steve	T	6-5	280	28	8	Auburn
99	Walter, Mike	LB	6-3	246	33	11	Oregon
97	Washington, Ted	NT-DE	6-4	295	25	3	Louisville
32	Watters, Ricky	RB	6-1	212	24	3	Notre Dame
81	Williams, Jamie	TE	6-4	245	33	10	Nebraska
10	Wilmsmeyer, Klaus	P	6-1	210	26	2	Louisville
77	Wilson, Karl	DE	6-5	277	29	6	Louisiana State
92	Wilson, Troy	DE	6-4	235	22	R	Pittsburg State
8	Young, Steve	QB	6-2	205	32	9	BYU

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE				
WR	— 82 John Taylor	83 Sanjay Beach	86 Odessa Turner	
LT	— 74 Steve Wallace	65 Harry Boatswain	76 Alec Millen	
LG	— 62 Guy McIntyre	71 Brian Bollinger	50 Chris Dalman	
C	— 61 Jesse Sapolu	50 Chris Dalman		
RG	— 64 Ralph Tamm	71 Brian Bollinger		
RT	— 79 Harris Barton	65 Harry Boatswain	76 Alec Millen	
TE	— 84 Brent Jones	81 Jamie Williams	85 John Brandes	
WR	— 80 Jerry Rice	88 Nate Singleton	83 Sanjay Beach	
QB	— 8 Steve Young	13 Steve Bono	14 Bill Musgrave	
			18 Elvis Grbac	
RB	— 32 Ricky Watters	22 Amp Lee	35 Dexter Carter	
RB	— 44 Tom Rathman	43 Marc Logan	27 Adam Walker	
DEFENSE				
LE	— 96 Dennis Brown	91 Larry Roberts	95 Artie Smith	
		56 Martin Harrison	92 Troy Wilson	
LT	— 94 Dana Stubblefield	95 Artie Smith		
RT	— 97 Ted Washington	95 Artie Smith		
RE	— 77 Karl Wilson	95 Artie Smith	72 Mark Thomas	
			58 Todd Kelly	
LLB	— 55 John Johnson	98 Antonio Goss		
MLB	— 99 Mike Walter	52 Larry Kelm	54 Ravin Caldwell	
RLB	— 53 Bill Romanowski	52 Larry Kelm		
LCB	— 25 Eric Davis	26 Michael McGruder		
RCB	— 29 Don Griffin	26 Michael McGruder	45 Adrian Hardy	
SS	— 46 Tim McDonald	38 Damien Russell		
FS	— 36 Merton Hanks	28 Dana Hall		
SPECIALISTS				
P	— 10 Klaus Wilmsmeyer			
K	— 6 Mike Cofer	10 Klaus Wilmsmeyer		
KO	— 6 Mike Cofer	10 Klaus Wilmsmeyer		
H	— 13 Steve Bono	10 Klaus Wilmsmeyer		
PR	— 35 Dexter Carter	88 Nate Singleton		
KR	— 22 Amp Lee	35 Dexter Carter		
PC	— 85 John Brandes	64 Ralph Tamm		
KC	— 64 Ralph Tamm	61 Jesse Sapolu		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COWBOYS PLAYERS AND STAFF

Jerry Jones
Owner

Jimmy Johnson
Head Coach

3 Eddie Murray
Kicker

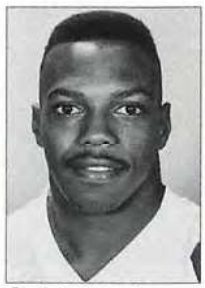
8 Troy Aikman
Quarterback

18 Bernie Kosar
Quarterback

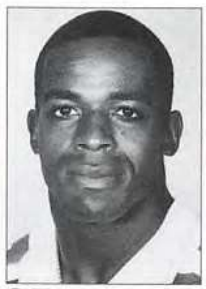
19 John Jett
Punter

22 Emmitt Smith
Running Back

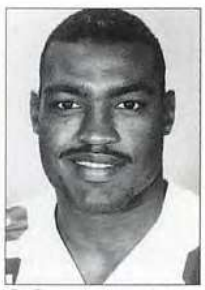
24 Larry Brown
Cornerback



26 Kevin Smith
Cornerback



27 Thomas Everett
Safety



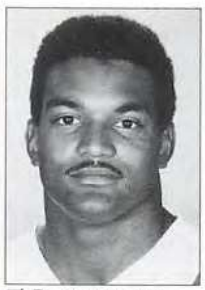
28 Darren Woodson
Safety

40 Bill Bates
Safety

48 Daryl Johnston
Running Back

51 Ken Norton
Linebacker

53 Mark Stepnoski
Center



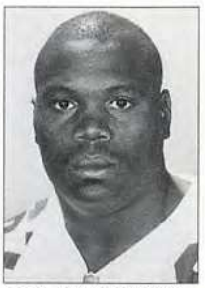
58 Dixon Edwards
Linebacker

59 Darrin Smith
Linebacker

61 Nate Newton
Guard

63 John Gesek
Guard

66 Kevin Gogan
Guard-Tackle

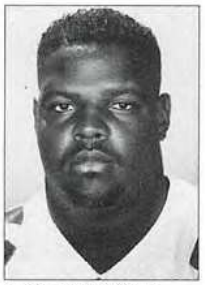


67 Russell Maryland
Defensive Tackle

71 Mark Tuinei
Tackle

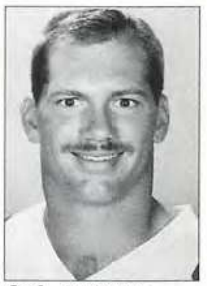
75 Tony Casillas
Defensive Tackle

77 Jim Jeffcoat
Defensive Tackle

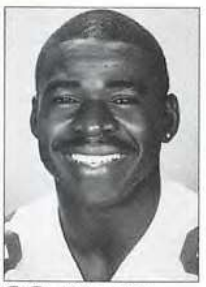


79 Erik Williams
Tackle

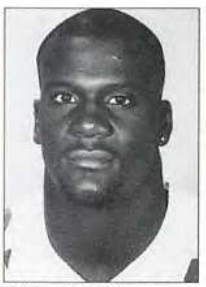
80 Alvin Harper
Wide Receiver



84 Jay Novacek
Tight End



88 Michael Irvin
Wide Receiver

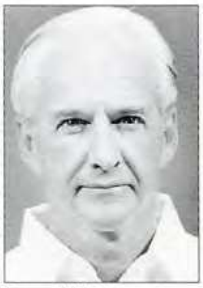


92 Tony Tolbert
Defensive End

94 Charles Haley
Defensive End

49ERS PLAYERS AND STAFF

Edward DeBartolo
Owner



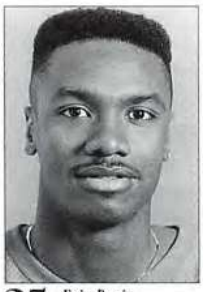
George Seifert
Head Coach

6 Mike Cofer
Kicker

8 Steve Young
Quarterback

10 Klaus Wilmsmeyer
Punter

13 Steve Bono
Quarterback



25 Eric Davis
Cornerback

26 Michael McGruder
Cornerback

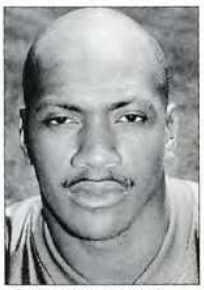
29 Don Griffin
Cornerback

32 Ricky Watters
Running Back

36 Merton Hanks
Safety

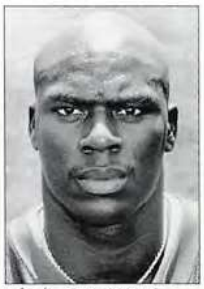
43 Marc Logan
Running Back

44 Tom Rathman
Running Back



46 Tim McDonald
Safety

53 Bill Romanowski
Linebacker

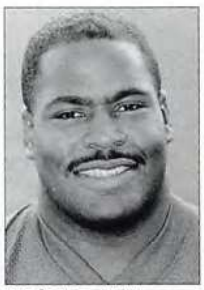


55 John Johnson
Linebacker

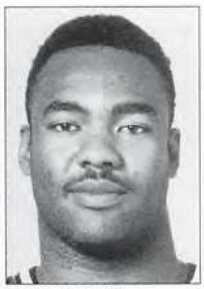
61 Jesse Sapolu
Center

62 Guy McIntyre
Guard

64 Ralph Tamm
Guard-Center



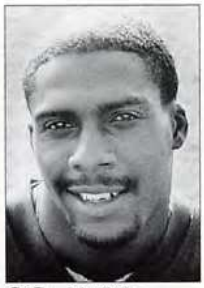
74 Steve Wallace
Tackle



77 Karl Wilson
Defensive End

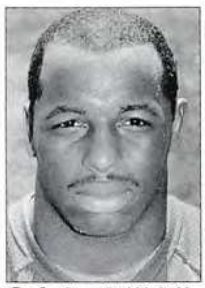
79 Harris Barton
Tackle

80 Jerry Rice
Wide Receiver

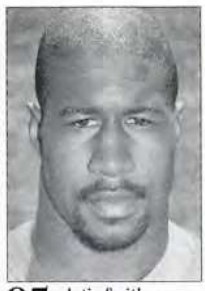


82 John Taylor
Wide Receiver

84 Brent Jones
Tight End



94 Dana Stubblefield
Defensive End

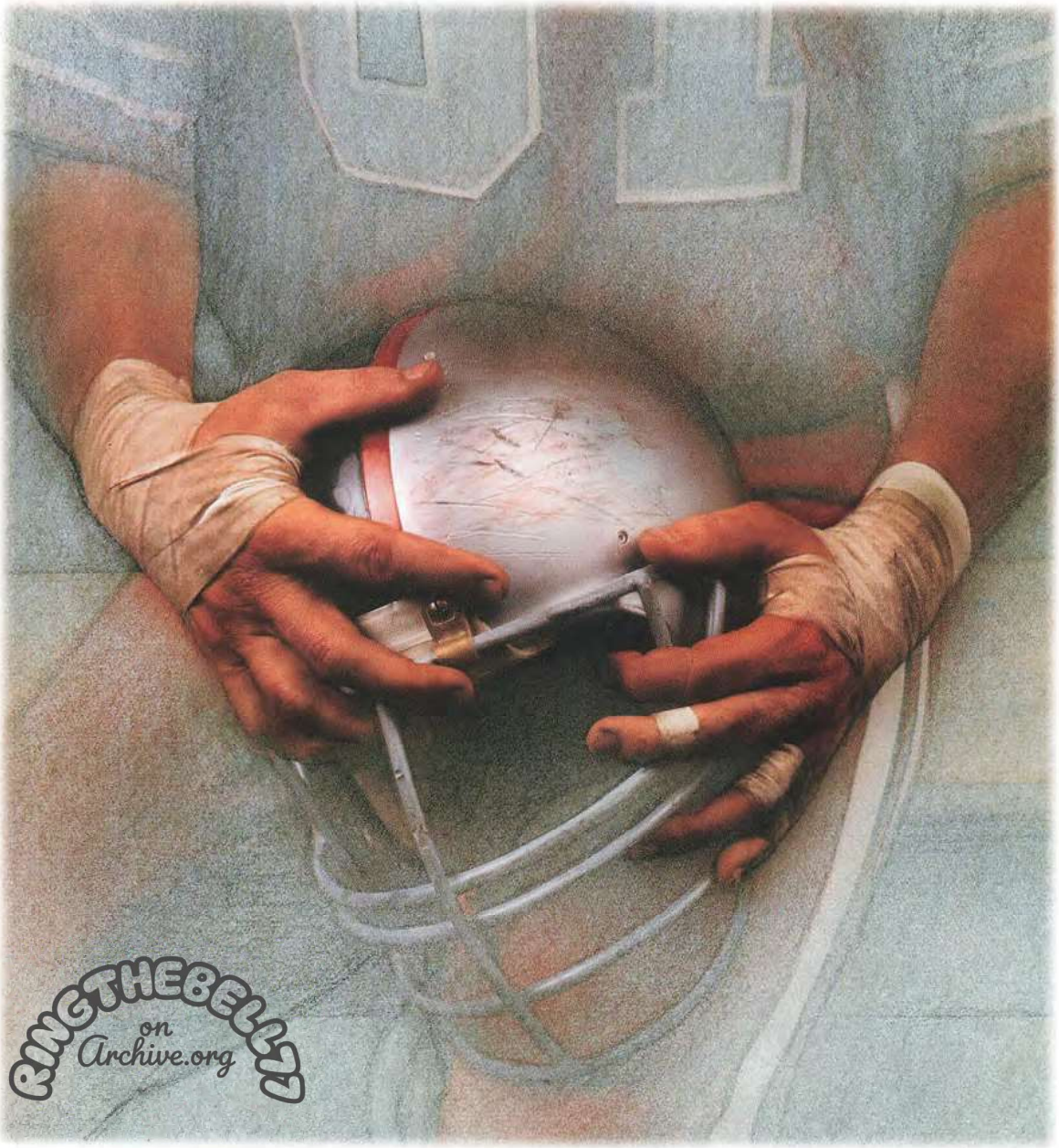


95 Artie Smith
Defensive End

96 Dennis Brown
Defensive End

97 Ted Washington
Nose Tackle-Defensive End

99 Mike Walter
Linebacker



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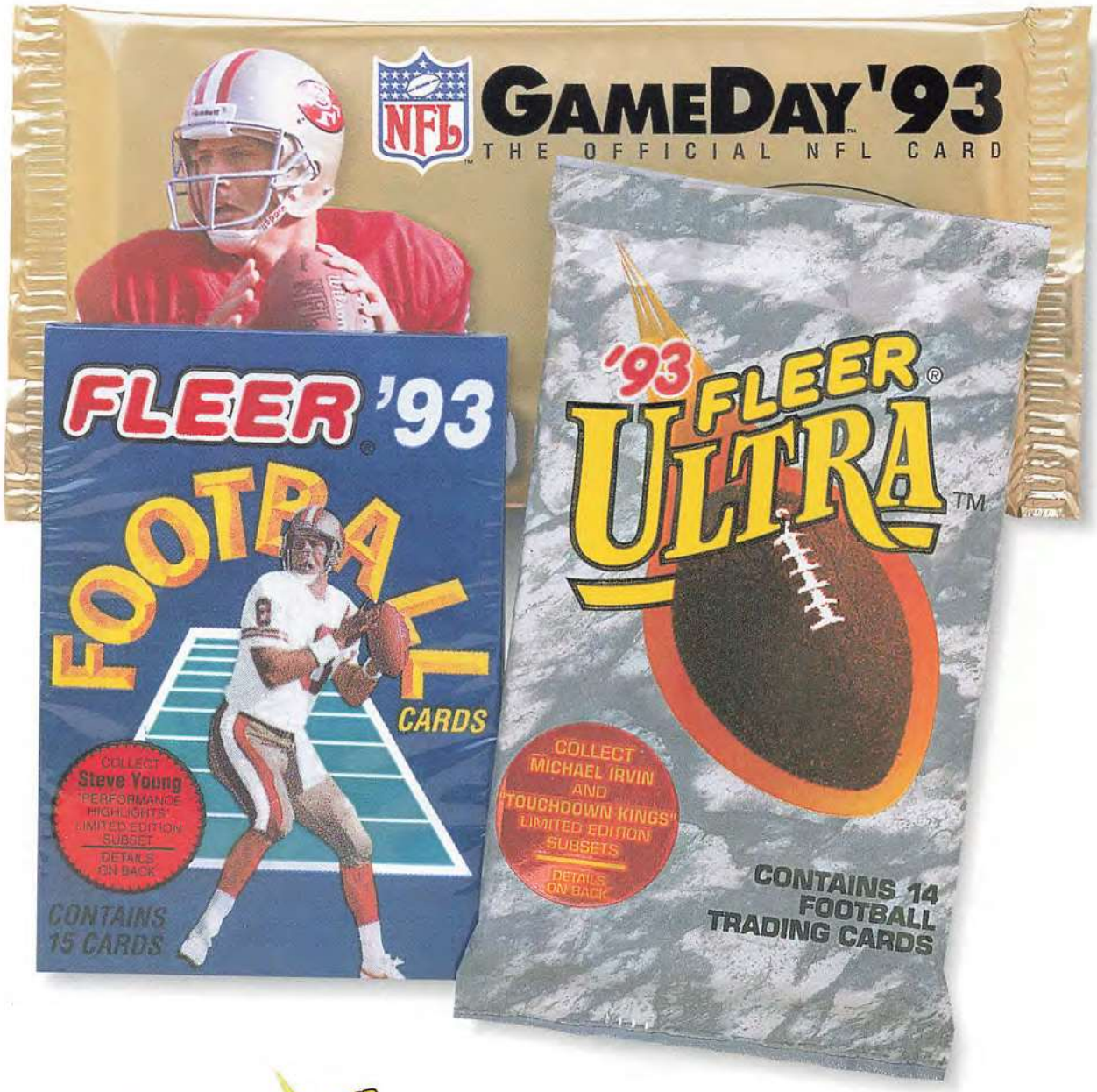
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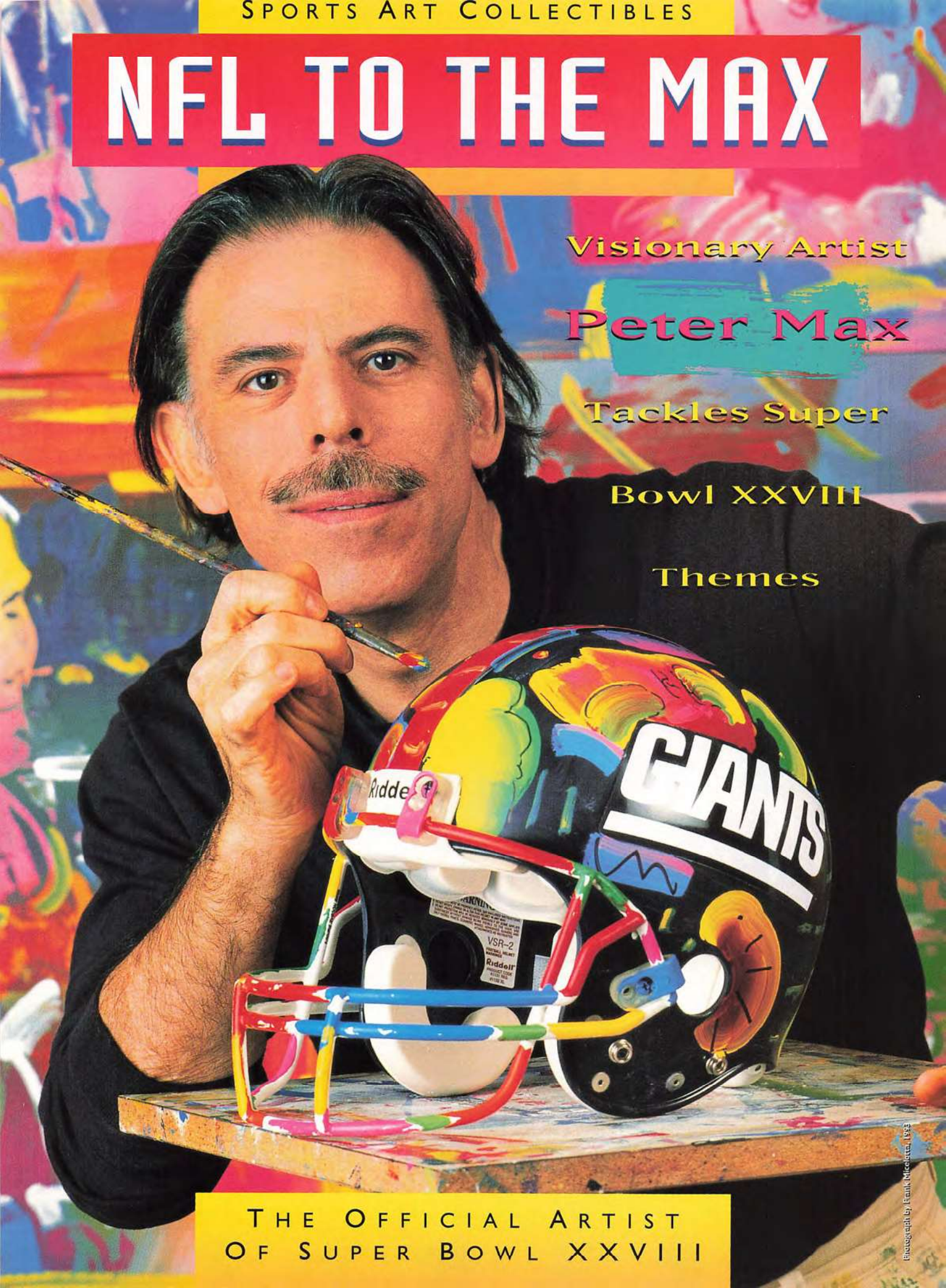
SPORTS ART COLLECTIBLES

NFL TO THE MAX



THE OFFICIAL ARTIST OF SUPER BOWL XXVIII

COSMIC JUMPER
Serigraph 22"x 30"
1973

LIBERTY HEAD
Acrylic on canvas 12"x 12"
1990

THE NFL TO THE MAX

If artist Peter Max were a pro football team, 1993 would have been a championship season. Max was named the official artist of Super Bowl XXVIII, the first person ever granted such a designation. Extensive displays of Max's work will be on view in Atlanta as part of Super Bowl week festivities at a special pavilion at The NFL Experience interactive pro football theme park and at the Fay Gold Gallery in Buckhead.

"I'm a great fan of pro football," says Max. "Graceful ballet moves are combined with power and intensity. I love the arts, theater, poetry, but nothing has the pure electricity of professional football."

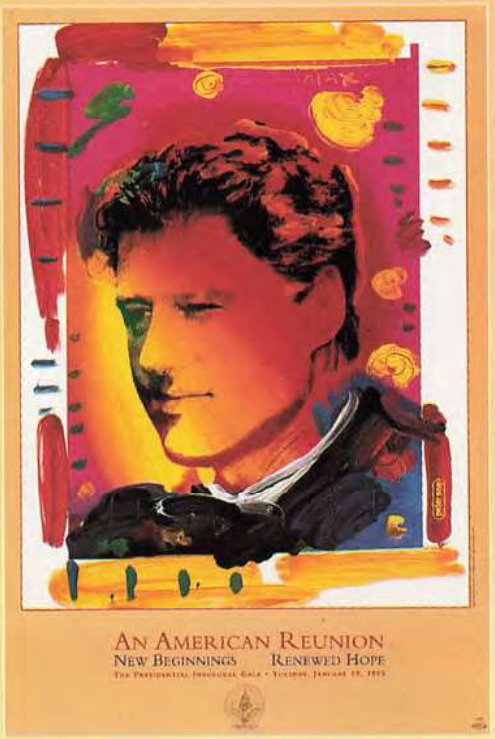
Among Max's other extraordinary achievements in 1993 was a major installation entitled "100 Clintons," inspired by the inauguration of the new President. Max and this work were featured on "Larry King Live." Max then was commissioned to create the artistic motif for the Democratic National Committee's "President's Dinner." Max later was invited to the White House to sketch the historic handshake between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Also in 1993, NBC commissioned Max to re-create its famous peacock logo, Max completed his fourth Grammy Awards poster, and several major museum retrospectives of Max's work toured through the United States and Europe. Max also was named the official artist for World Cup USA '94.

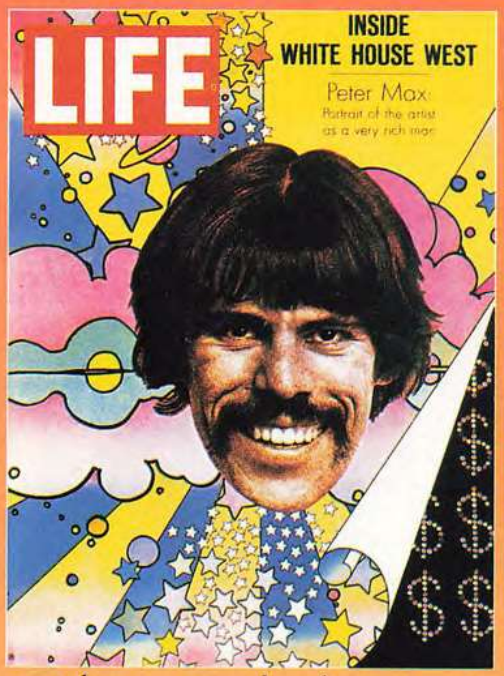
ZERO-MEGALOPOLIS ON RED
Acrylic on canvas 11" x 11"
1989

Max rose to prominence in the 1960s with his use of vibrant colors, a bold linear style, and transcendental themes. His early work remains a highly collectible and lasting image of Beatles-era pop culture. Since then, Max has expanded upon his style and media to create a look that is as fresh in the 1990s as it was 25 years ago. His many high-profile commissions, including his series of United Nations postage stamps commemorating the U.N.-sponsored Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, two 150-foot murals for the U.S. Pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville, Spain, and *Time* and *People* magazine covers, have made Max's work instantly recognizable internationally. An ardent environmentalist and

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE
Lithographic poster
1969



CLINTON INAUGURAL
One of three lithographic posters 24"x 36"
1993



LIFE MAGAZINE COVER
©Time Life
September, 1969

defender of human and animal rights, Max founded Global Works, a non-profit organization that supports numerous worthy causes through art.

And now Peter Max focuses his artistic vision on Super Bowl XXVIII, a sports mega-event that poses a number of unique creative challenges for even Max's fluid talents.

"In my studio," Max says, "are eighteen television monitors playing videos of 'Inside the NFL' and blasting rock music simultaneously. These electric sights and sounds help motivate me to create. I use hand-blended acrylics to paint canvases of the players. I attempt to capture their intensity and spirit, and the feel of this powerful game."

Max's association with the Super Bowl began in 1991, when he painted a cover for *TV Guide*'s Super Bowl preview issue. In 1992, he was commissioned by the Los Angeles Host Committee to create a commemorative poster for Super Bowl XXVII held at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena.

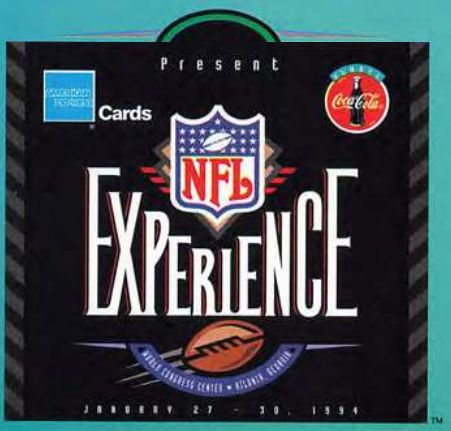
FLOWER BLOSSOM LADY DETAIL
Acrylic on canvas 60"x 72", 1992

For Super Bowl XXVIII, Max unveiled his interpretation of the official NFL Experience logo at a press conference in Atlanta last December. The 70"x 40" acrylic-on-canvas painting will be auctioned at the NFL Experience Memorabilia Auction to benefit the NFL's Atlanta-area charity efforts. Max also has been commissioned by the NFL to create a painting that captures the electricity, color, and excitement of this year's Super Bowl game.

"When I stand with paintbrush in hand," says Max, "and look at the footballs and colorful helmets, I realize these are icons of contemporary sport and culture, symbols that even non-fans recognize. What I have tried to do is give this most-American sport a fresh, multi-media approach, one that reflects the dazzling rainbow of form, color, and movement that is the NFL game."

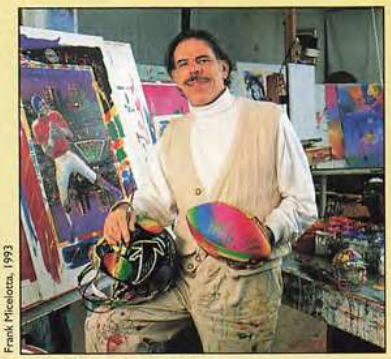
MAX ON VIEW

The Peter Max Pavilion at The NFL Experience in Atlanta features hundreds of original football artworks and objects such as limited-edition posters, hand-painted regulation NFL footballs, and mini- and regulation-size NFL helmets. The third edition of the spectacular interactive pro football theme park, The NFL Experience will be open to the public from Thursday, January 27 through Super Sunday, January 30 at Atlanta's World Congress Center. Event hours are 10 A.M. to 10 P.M. Thursday through Saturday, and 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Sunday. Tickets are available in advance through Ticketmaster and at the gate.



MAX-IMIZE YOUR SUPER BOWL XXVIII EXPERIENCE

THE NFL HAS ASKED PETER MAX TO PAINT A LIMITED NUMBER OF NFL HELMETS AND FOOTBALLS. PETER MAX HAND-PAINTED NFL HELMETS AND FOOTBALLS COMBINE THE BEST OF FINE ART AND SPORTS COLLECTIBILITY. EACH IS *UNIQUE*, *SPECIAL*, AND *ORIGINAL*.



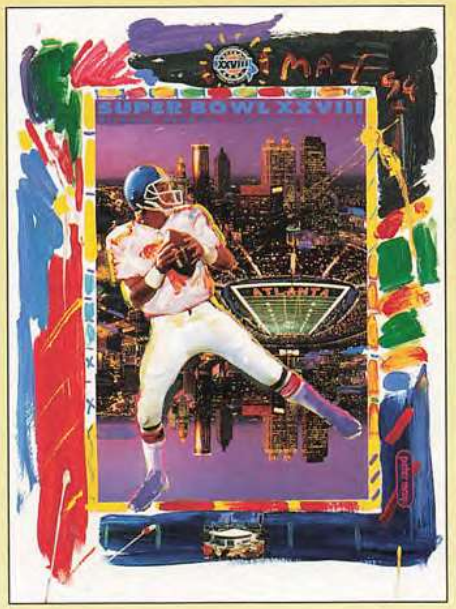
Frank Micelotta, 1993

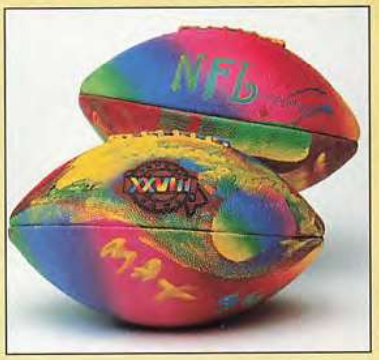
PETER MAX IN HIS STUDIO

OFFICIAL PETER MAX SUPER BOWL XXVIII COMMEMORATIVE POSTER ►
This magnificent official poster captures the energy of the Super Bowl and the spirit, grace, and power of NFL players in a dynamic mixed media collage. Poster is printed on finest quality art paper suitable for framing, and measures 36"x 24". Starting at $35 for unsigned posters, $200 for each poster signed by the artist, and $8,000 for original acrylic over-painted posters (very limited availability).

MINI NFL TEAM HELMETS ►
Miniature mementos salute your favorite team in a brilliant array of colors and brushstrokes. Available for all 30 NFL teams, including Carolina and Jacksonville. Limited edition; varying quantities per team. Starting at $1,000 each.

MINI SUPER BOWL XXVIII COMMEMORATIVE HELMETS ►
Individually hand-painted helmets celebrate the Super Bowl. To fully commemorate the event, Peter Max will paint the final score of the game on each helmet. Starting at $1,000 each.

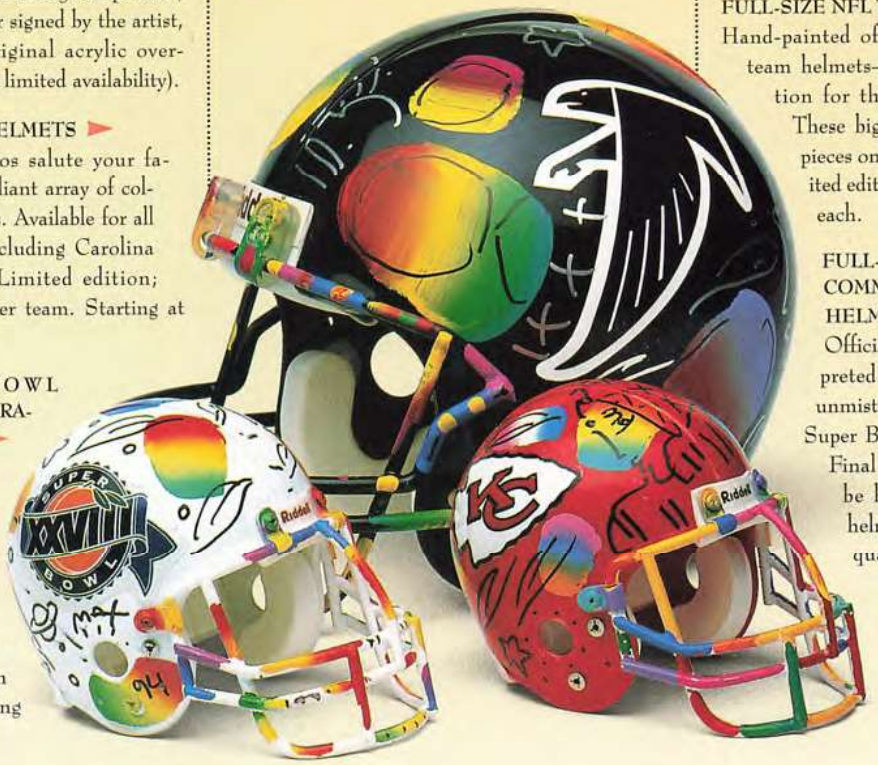




OFFICIAL SUPER BOWL XXVIII COMMEMORATIVE FOOTBALLS ▲
The same official Wilson Super Bowl football, transformed by Peter Max into an instant collectible. The final game score will be hand painted on each football by Max. Official regular-season ball also available. Starting at $1,000 each.

FULL-SIZE NFL TEAM HELMETS ◄
Hand-painted official regulation NFL team helmets—the ultimate acquisition for the sports art collector. These big, bright, and beautiful pieces only are available in a limited edition. Starting at $3,500 each.

FULL-SIZE SUPER BOWL COMMEMORATIVE HELMETS ◄
Official NFL helmets reinterpreted. Peter Max brings his unmistakable touch to a prized Super Bowl XXVIII collectible. Final Super Bowl score will be hand painted on each helmet by Max. A limited quantity of full-size helmets from your most memorable past Super Bowls also have been created. Call for availability. Starting at $3,500 each.



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All Peter Max artwork © 1993

SUPER BOWL SPOTLIGHT

Joe Namath Redux
Atlanta Revealed
Georgia Regarded
Falcons Remembered
PLUS: ***The Wisdom and Wit of Jimmy Carter, James Dickey, Will McDonough, Scott Ostler, and Phil Barber***
AND: ***The Finest Photo Images of 1993***

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A FRIENDLY TAP

BY JIMMY CARTER

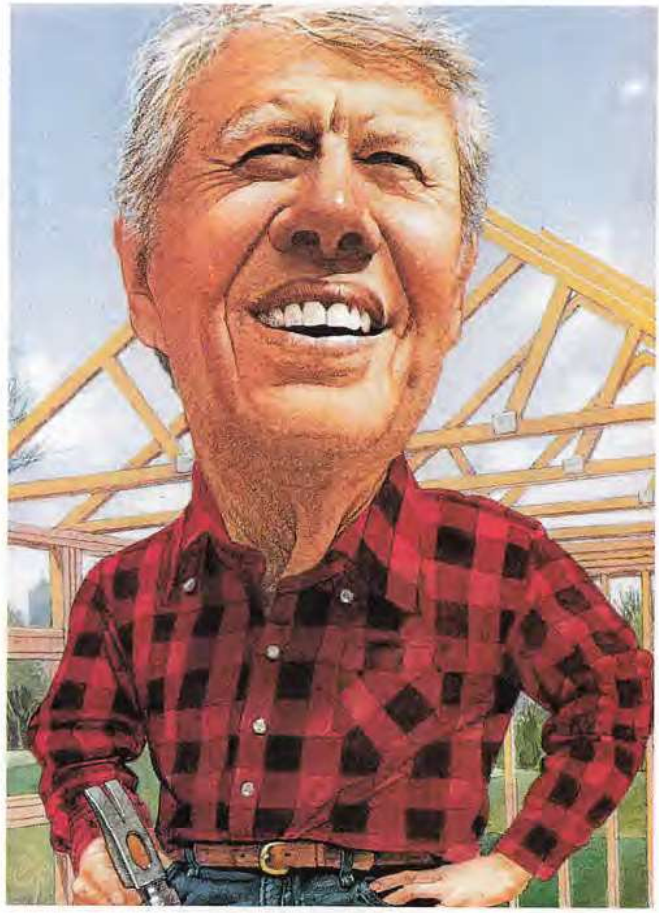
Americans long have had a love affair with sports. For generations, athletes have dominated the popular culture and served as role models for the young.

In my early years, I followed the triumphs of Red Grange and Joe DiMaggio. Later we thrilled to the feats of Joe Montana and Hank Aaron, but the feelings are the same.

We dream of doing what sports stars do—catching the impossible pass, besting the unbeatable foe, scoring the game-winning touchdown. We want to be like our heroes, both on the field and off.

What is it that makes athletes so inspiring? A true star builds a reputation not on the strengths of one game, but on a career shaped by talent, hard work, discipline, and dedication to the game.

And there is another important ingredient to success both on and off the athletic field: teamwork.



C.F. Payne

A football player cannot reach the Super Bowl alone, no matter how talented he is or how hard he works.

He must learn to trust his teammates, he must rely on them. Which means he must ignore the color of his teammate's skin, the place where he grew up, or the house of worship in which he prays.

This formula for success on the playing field is the same as the formula for success in life. All of us can develop the traits of champions in our own lives, whether our ambitions lie in the sporting arena, in the classroom, in the board room, or even in the White House.

Sports played an important role in my life when I was growing up in the small, rural town of Plains, Georgia. I played varsity baseball and basketball in high school, and ran cross-country at Annapolis. I also played football there—but in the under-140-pounds league! I never was a superstar, nor did I expect to play on a professional team.

But I enjoyed testing myself against others and against my own expectations. I learned firsthand about the importance of perseverance and teamwork.

Unfortunately, too many young children today are missing out on the important contributions sports can make to their lives.

There is a desperate need in our country for meaningful youth activities on weekends and after school, especially in troubled neighborhoods. Young people need adult role models and mentors to give them constructive alternatives to the destructive lifestyles many find all too easily on the street.

Schools, churches and synagogues, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, YMCAs, YWCAs, parks and recreation departments, and many other groups organize youth sports leagues and teams in their communities, but many of them never reach our inner cities, and they cannot make those efforts successful without active public support. They need coaches, jerseys, equipment, and space in which to play, and these are things that only we, as parents and neighbors and friends, can provide.

Our children need not just helmets and hoops but *us*—our caring, our commitment, and our time. They need dedicated people to bring their heroes' ideals home to them and help them learn the many lessons that team and individual sports can provide.

I know what that kind of personal involvement can mean because I have seen its impact right here in Atlanta.

Two years ago, we at The Carter Center launched The Atlanta Project (TAP) to tackle some of the many social problems that are tearing apart families and communities in the inner city—instability in the home, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, violence and drug abuse, and inadequate health care, among others.

TAP is designed to channel Atlanta's talent and goodwill into a coordinated effort to restore hope to the lives of people who have struggled for too long without it.

We work on the simple premise that people do not respond to programs; they respond to people.

TAP helps communities organize under the leadership of

Michael Schwarz for TAP

Michael Schwarz for TAP

The tireless social service of the United States' thirty-ninth President includes a visit with children at Perry Homes during an immunization drive (left) and discussion at a Cluster meeting at Atlanta's Crim High School (below).

neighbors and friends. In partnership with thousands of volunteers and with government, other nonprofit organizations, and local businesses and universities, we are giving people the tools they need to identify their own problems and create their own solutions.

Let me give you an example of how TAP works. Last spring, TAP launched the most comprehensive immunization campaign ever undertaken in this country. During one weekend, 12,000 volunteers went door-to-door to tell parents in inner-city neighborhoods about the importance of childhood immunizations. Thanks to their efforts, more than 16,000 preschoolers visited area health clinics in just one week.

We continue to work with local health departments, locating children and computerizing their health records to ensure that they receive adequate follow-up health care services.

Good physical health is one ingredient a child needs to develop his or her full potential, but there are other pressing needs as well. That's why residents of the 20 neighborhoods TAP covers are involved in more than 250 community-based programs of their own, ranging from school mentoring programs to art and theater projects.

A number of programs already involve Atlanta's sports community.

A group called Soccer in the Streets is working with a number of TAP communities to teach soccer to young people. Several members of the Atlanta Hawks helped restore homes around the city last summer, and members of the Atlanta Falcons and other local sports teams helped publicize TAP's very successful "Pennies From Heaven" fund-raising drive last fall.

As part of my work with TAP, I have spent many hours visiting with and listening to residents in some of the most disadvantaged communities in and around Atlanta. What I heard at some of those first meetings surprised me.

When we asked residents what were the most pressing needs in their neighborhoods, they consistently cited recreational facilities, after-school and weekend sports programs, and summer activities for kids. In fact, they listed this concern above the need for additional police protection and other much-needed social services.

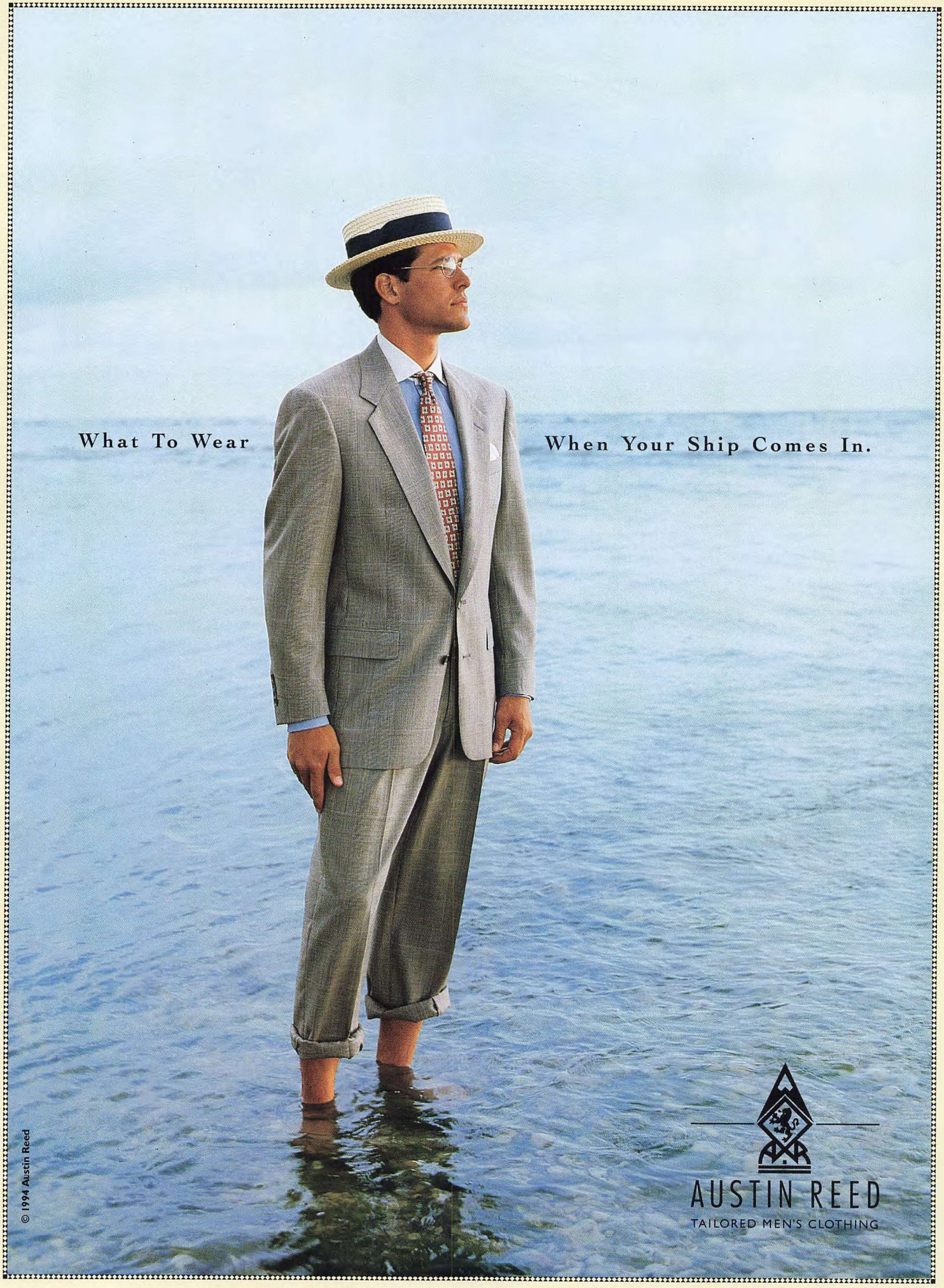
TAP is responding to the residents' call by continuing to develop grass-roots partnerships with the sports community, including the organizing committee for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. TAP clusters also are joining forces with our city's Boys' and Girls' Clubs, YMCAs, and Police Athletic Leagues.

Children will benefit tremendously from the NFL's own Youth Education Town, which soon will come to our city, and TAP hopes to launch a comprehensive youth sports program next year. Because sports transcend racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic barriers, we believe the spirit of camaraderie and understanding among people can spill over into their everyday lives.

I hope each of you here for Super Bowl XXVIII will explore how you can introduce opportunities for organized sports into your communities, not just for your own kids, but for your neighbors' children and those throughout your city.

Find out which programs need your help. In communities where programs do not yet exist, recruit a local business to sponsor a team. You'll be giving kids positive role models and helping them push each other and themselves to explore their own potential for excellence.

I think that both you and they will be surprised by the results. Our youth need you on their team. ◆


What To Wear
When Your Ship Comes In.
AUSTIN REED
TAILORED MEN'S CLOTHING
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THE MILD

Al Messerschmidt

SIDE OF BROADWAY

Spending the Last 25 Years With Joe Namath

BY RAY DIDINGER

Dave Herman recalls the summer of 1968 when the New York Jets and Green Bay Packers were in Cleveland for a preseason doubleheader.

The two teams stayed at the same hotel, and before the games (Jets vs. Detroit and the Packers vs. Cleveland) the lobby was jammed with autograph seekers. But these were not your typical kids with NFL lunch boxes.

"Most of them were girls, all dolled up like they were waiting for a Hollywood producer," says Herman, a guard with the Jets. "When Joe Namath stepped off the elevator, it was like a stampede. People went crazy, screaming, climbing over each other just to touch him.

"Five minutes later, Bart Starr walked through the same lobby and nobody looked twice. That's when I realized what the word charisma means. Starr was a great quarterback, but Namath was that and more. Joe was a true superstar, maybe the greatest ever."

Joe Namath. Broadway Joe.

In the tumultuous America of the late 1960s, the Jets' swaggering young quarterback was the cover boy of professional football. He was talented, he was brash, he was glamorous. Whether he was passing for 496 yards in a game (which he did) or throwing 6 interceptions (he did that, too), he had fans lined up at the stage door.

He guaranteed a victory over Baltimore in Super Bowl III, and he delivered with an MVP performance as the Jets shocked the Colts 16-7. It was the first meaningful win for the upstart American Football League against the established National Football League, and it validated the merger of the two, which was agreed upon in 1966 and fully enacted in 1970.

Today, when people talk about the Super Bowl, they often bypass Vince Lombardi, whose Green Bay Packers won the first two games of the series, and start with Namath and the Jets. More than any other man, Broadway Joe married the game and the spectacle. He put the Super Bowl at the top of the American sports marquee.

In October, 1969, *Esquire* magazine wrote: "Once in a generation, more or less, a chosen figure detaches himself from the social matrix and swims into mythology, hovering somewhere near the center of the universe, organizing in himself our attention, monopolizing our hopes and fears, compelling our hearts to beat as his.

"Such a figure is Joe Namath."

Twenty-five years have passed since Super Bowl III, and Namath has long since left center stage. Now 50, he lives in the quiet community of Tequesta, Florida, 80 miles north of the Orange Bowl, site of his epic win over the Colts. He owns a rambling, 12-room house on the Loxahatchee River, and on a warm, sunny day he likes nothing better than sitting on his private dock, fishing for snook and flounder.

He has been married to his wife, Tatiana, for

Walter looss/*Sports Illustrated*

eight years. They have two daughters—Jessica, 7, and Olivia, 3. He laughs about his former image as the swinging bachelor with the lavish Manhattan apartment. He reads old stories about his white llama rug and the chorus-girls-in-waiting, and he feels as if he were reading about someone else.

"I'm a Gemini so there are a couple of me's around," Namath says, relaxing for a moment in his spacious den. "There is a mischievous side to me, and I guess being young and in New York brought that out. But my greatest pleasure now is kicking back and spending time with my family."

The knees that plagued Namath throughout his 13-year pro career have been replaced by plastic versions. He underwent the replacement surgery in April, 1992, after several incidents in which his knees, ravaged by surgery and too many games played on painkillers and bravado, collapsed beneath him.

His greatest fear, he said, was that it would happen again one day while he was carrying his daughters, and that they might be injured in the fall.

"I feel better than I have in twenty years," Namath said. "I haven't taken any pain medication in over a year. I can walk, I can exercise on the ski machine, and I feel fine."

"Kids from the neighborhood come to the door and ask if Joe can come out and play," Tatiana says.

"I say okay," Namath says, "but on one condition: Nobody hits the quarterback."

It has been 16 years since he retired as a player, yet Joe Willie Namath remains one of football's biggest names. There were a lot of Super Bowl heroes, but there was only one brazen enough to call his shot in advance. There was only one who owned a mink coat and wore pantyhose in a TV commercial. There was only one who romanced Ann-Margaret on the silver screen. (Surely, you remember the 1969 biker movie *C.C. and Company.*)

There was only one Broadway Joe.

There still is.

"As a viewer, Joe was somebody I could relate to," says former running back O.J. Simpson, who was winning the Heisman Trophy at USC while Namath led the Jets to the AFL title in 1968. The two men were inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

"Joe came across as a real person. From his time on, fans saw football players as people. They didn't all train on milk and apple pie. I can remember Joe saying he liked his women blonde and his Johnny Walker Red. It probably made some people mad, but I liked it.

Namath: "I can't tell you how many times I've had people tell me they used our win in the Super Bowl as a motivating force. The moral is the same: If the Jets did it, you can do it."

"What Joe was saying was, 'Hey, if you don't hurt anybody, it's okay to be yourself.' He wore his hair long and spoke his mind, but that's what the sixties were all about. Joe was the superstar athlete who really reflected what the younger generation was thinking."

Namath was more than just a player, he was the show that sold the American Football League. He gave the new league credibility by signing with the Jets as the top draft pick out of Alabama in 1965. The AFL had other good quarterbacks, such as Len Dawson (Kansas City), George Blanda (Houston), and Jack Kemp (Buffalo), but they all were recycled NFL backups.

What the new league needed was a star it could claim as its own. Namath was the perfect player, and New York, with its bright lights and media muscle, was the ideal setting.

David (Sonny) Werblin was the Jets' owner, and he had a background in show business. He marketed Namath the way he would a Broadway star, signing him to a $427,000 contract that made him the highest-paid player in the league.

Heads turned, jaws dropped, people took notice.

That was the whole idea.

"I believe in the star system," Werblin said. "That's what sells tickets. Namath has that special stuff. Namath is DiMaggio. He's Clark Gable, Sinatra, Babe Ruth."

"Namath captured the imagination of New York, and that meant the AFL captured the imagination of New York," says Art Modell, owner of the Cleveland Browns. "It was a huge step forward. All of a sudden, here was this guy who people wanted to see, and he was in the 'other' league.

Darryl Norenberg

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AND WHEN PRACTICE ENDS,
YOU'LL BE WEARING
THE DIRTIEST JERSEY
LIKE A BADGE OF HONOR.
IT TAKES A LITTLE MORE TO MAKE A
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"Of course, all the publicity in the world wouldn't have mattered if Namath couldn't play. But he was the real thing—you could see that from the start."

"Namath was the best pure passer I ever saw, and he had the quickest release," says John Madden, the former Raiders head coach. "We'd put in blitzes and say, 'There is no way he can beat this.' And he would. He took some hellacious shots, but the ball was already on its way, usually for six points.

"The thing that sticks out in my mind the most about Namath is his toughness. He was one of the toughest guys who ever played the game. You read all the stories about Broadway Joe and you'd think he was a pretty boy. But he didn't play like a pretty boy. He was one tough s.o.b.

"The only time I ever went to the other team's locker room to shake a player's hand, it was Namath," Madden says. "We played the Jets in a wild game in Oakland, both teams slugging it out like a couple of heavyweights. We kept hitting Namath, he kept getting up and throwing touchdown passes.

"We won the game, and on my way out, I went to the Jets' locker room and shook Joe's hand. I'd never done that before. It was totally spontaneous. All I remember saying is, 'Hey, you're a helluva man,' and I meant it."

"Namath was like a ghost from the waist down," says Steve Sabol of NFL Films. "If you look at film of his throwing motion, it was all upper body. He spun like a gun turret when he released the ball."

Malcolm Emmons

On the eve of Super Bowl III, Norm Van Brocklin was asked for his assessment of Joe Namath. A Hall of Fame quarterback himself, Van Brocklin was head coach at Atlanta and a firm believer in NFL superiority.

"I'll tell you what I think about Namath on Sunday night," Van Brocklin said. "After he's played his first pro game."

That was the prevailing sentiment, not only within the NFL fraternity but around the nation.

The Colts were 19-point favorites, a spread that reflected their 13-1 regular-season record and their 34-0 rout of Cleveland in the NFL Championship Game. Coached by Don Shula and boasting the game's top-ranked defense, the Colts were considered one of the great teams of all time.

The Jets were viewed as just another AFL team, which is to say one step above the sandlots. Kansas City and Oakland self-destructed in the first two Super Bowls, losing to Green Bay by scores of 35-10 and 33-14. Lombardi said the AFL representatives "didn't compare" to the top teams in the NFL.

And if Lombardi said it, it was gospel.

The Jets were a classic AFL team: freewheeling and wide open. In the 1968 AFL Championship Game, Namath and Oakland's Daryle Lamonica combined to throw 96 passes. Old-school coaches such as Lombardi and Van Brocklin called it "Mickey Mouse football."

Even the AFL's founder, Kansas City owner Lamar Hunt, had little faith in the Jets. He felt they were the weakest of the three AFL teams to appear in a Super Bowl. At 11-3, the Jets had the third-best record in the league that season. Kansas City and Oakland tied with 12-2 marks in the Western Division.

"My nose was still out of joint because we [the Chiefs] weren't there," Hunt says, referring to Super Bowl III. "We lost to Oakland in a playoff, then Oakland lost to the Jets in the title game. But I thought our team and the Raiders both were better than the Jets.

"Having seen what the Colts did to Cleveland in their championship game, I really thought the Colts would beat the Jets easily."

The Jets saw the matchup differently.

Yes, the Baltimore defense was formidable, but it was aging. Namath saw the right side as vulnerable with end Ordell Braase (36 years old), linebacker Don Shinnick (33), and cornerback Lenny Lyles (32). He also knew that left end Bubba Smith took an aggressive upfield rush, which left him vulnerable to traps and draw plays.

Namath was a master at this sort of dissection. As Jets linebacker Larry Grantham said: "I don't see how any team can defense Joe. He always hits you where it hurts."

Namath made headlines even before the Jets arrived in Miami. He told reporters that, in his opinion, there were at least five AFL quarterbacks who were better than Baltimore starter Earl Morrall. Namath included himself among the five, along with his backup, 38-year-old Babe Parilli.

This caused quite a stir, inasmuch as Morrall was the top-rated

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passer in the NFL that season. He took over as the Colts' starter when Johnny Unitas went out with an arm injury, and he played so well that Shula stayed with him even after Unitas recovered.

Asked to respond, Morrall said: "[Namath] is getting newspaper space and that's what he's after, isn't it? Maybe he represents the kind of athlete the coming generation wants. I hope not."

During Super Bowl week, Namath exchanged words with Colts kicker and defensive end Lou Michaels at a Fort Lauderdale nightspot. What started as harmless needling heated up when Namath told the 6-2, 250-pound Michaels: "What do you know? You're just a kicker."

Michaels snarled and, as Namath recalls, "a lot of guys in tuxedos jumped in to calm things down."

Then came Thursday night, the night that forever shaped the legend of Joe Namath.

Namath went to the Miami Touchdown Club dinner to receive its Player of the Year award. As he went to the podium, a heckler—one who obviously wore NFL colors—shouted: "Hey, Namath, we're gonna kick your butt."

"I got a little hot," Namath says, looking back. "All week I read about how great the Colts were and how we didn't belong on the same field with them. I was tired of it.

"I said, 'Wait a minute, pal, I've got news for you. We're going to win this game. I guarantee it.'

"I didn't plan it. I never would have said it if that loudmouth hadn't popped off. I just shot back. It was simply a gut reaction."

Jets head coach Weeb Ewbank did not hear about it until the next morning when he saw the headline: "Namath Guarantees Victory."

Ewbank was stunned. He had played along with the underdog role all week and instructed his team to do the same. The idea was to lull the Colts into thinking the game would be as easy as the oddsmakers predicted.

Deep down, Ewbank knew otherwise. He had seen the films. He knew the Colts could be beaten, but he felt making the NFL champions overconfident only improved the Jets' chances.

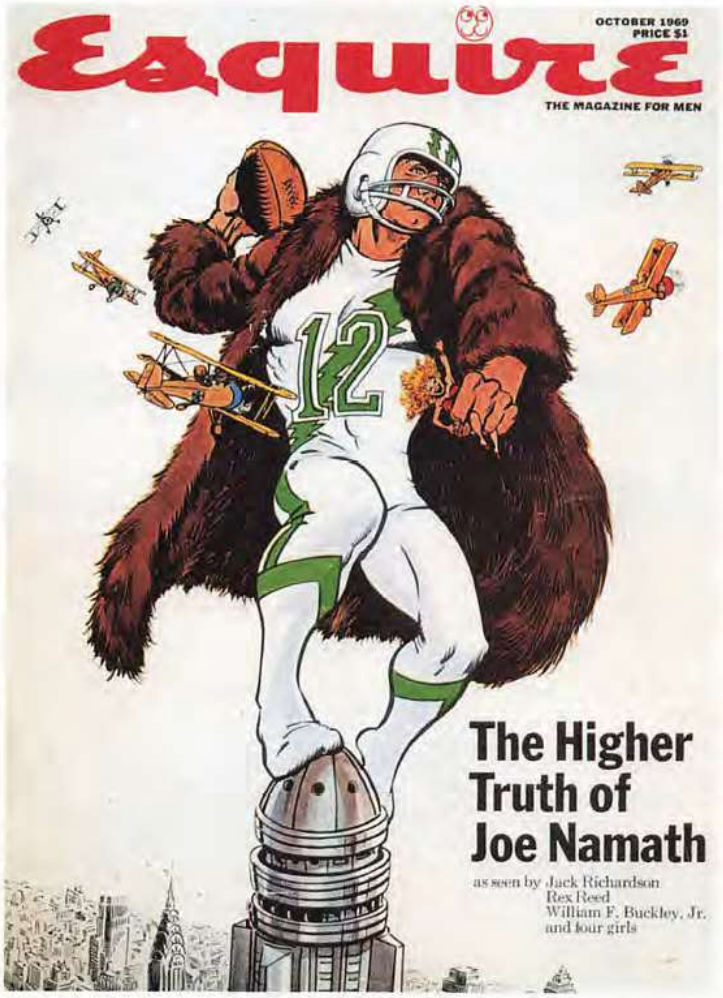
Everything was going fine until Namath opened his mouth Thursday night.

"I was upset with Joe," Ewbank says. "I said, 'Shula will use it against us. He'll have his players all riled up.'

"Joe said, 'Coach, if they need press clippings to get ready, they're in trouble.'"

The game took on sociological overtones. This was January, 1969. The Vietnam War had divided the country. In August, Woodstock would define a generation. The two teams were cast as metaphors for their time. The Jets, epitomized by Namath, were young and rebellious. The Colts, with their crewcut quarterbacks and NFL pedigree, were establishment.

"A chosen figure...hovering somewhere near the center of the universe, monopolizing our hopes and fears, compelling our hearts to beat as his."



"We took pride in being the rebels," Namath says. "A lot of our guys had long hair and moustaches. Before the game, [AFL President] Milt Woodard sent a letter ordering us to shave. He wanted to clean up our image.

"We never heard about it until after the game. Weeb never posted the letter. He knew we wouldn't go along with it."

The game played out just as Namath had expected. The Jets' underrated offensive line handled the Baltimore front four, and Namath, calling most of his plays at the line, used the power running of fullback Matt Snell (30 carries, 121 yards) to control the game.

Flanker Don Maynard had a hamstring pull, but no one outside the Jets' family knew it. Namath used Maynard as a decoy, allowing split end George Sauer to work one-on-one against cornerback Bob Boyd. Sauer caught 8 passes for 133 yards. Maynard had no receptions, yet he played an integral part in the victory.

Morrall threw 3 interceptions before Shula lifted him in the second half. Unitas came off the bench, trailing 13-0. It went to 16-0 before Unitas led the Colts to their lone touchdown with 3:19 remaining in the game.

The Jets, playing with poise and precision, made good on Namath's guarantee. They brought the AFL its first world championship. The banner headline in the *Baltimore Sun* the next day read: "Upset of the Century."

Namath's numbers were relatively unspectacular—17 completions in 28 attempts for 206 yards—but he was such a commanding figure with his play-calling and leadership that he was voted the game's most valuable player. Eleven quarterbacks have been Su-

Artist: Marie Sererin

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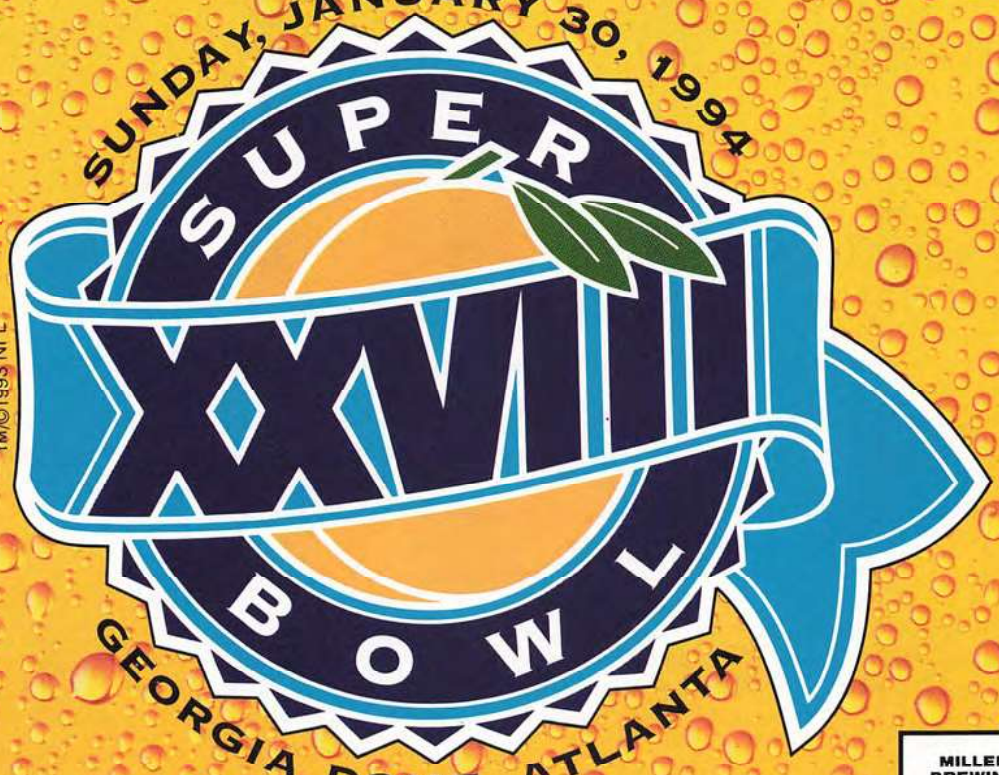
THE SUPER COMBINATION



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per Bowl MVPs, some more than once, but Namath is the only one to win the award without throwing a touchdown pass.

"I give Namath all the credit in the world," Shula says. "He backed up everything he said. We killed teams with our blitz all season, but Namath got rid of the ball so fast that even when one of our rushers came free, he still couldn't get to [Namath] in time."

"I watched the game from Carroll Rosenbloom's box," says Tex Schramm, former president of the Dallas Cowboys, referring to the late Colts owner. "It was a quiet place, let me tell you.

"We couldn't believe what was happening. We kept thinking Baltimore would turn it around. We waited and waited and then the game was over. For the [NFL] diehards—and I was certainly one of them—that game was like a punch in the stomach."

Lamar Hunt went to the Jets' locker room to offer his congratulations. NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle found Hunt in the crowd and shouted in his ear: "This is the best thing that could have happened."

"Pete saw the big picture," Hunt says. "The merger was in place, the leagues were coming together, and with the Jets winning, we now had a horse race. People knew the AFL was for real."

"That game wasn't about money or individual honors, it was about respect," Namath says. "We didn't get any respect before the game. Our league didn't get any respect, period. When we won, we felt like we won for a whole lot of people, not just ourselves.

"We returned to the hotel and [Chiefs stars] Buck Buchanan and Willie Lanier were waiting for us. They wanted to say thanks. I saw [Chargers quarterback] John Hadl that night. I remember John telling me what it was like, sitting in the stands, watching us win. He had tears in his eyes.

"You ask me how much that game meant?" Namath says. "That's how much it meant."

For the Jets, the magic proved fleeting. They were beaten in the playoffs the following year by Kansas City, 13-6, starting a steep decline that lasted more than a decade.

The championship nucleus was broken up by age and injury. Ewbank stepped down following the 1973 season. Namath was sidelined with one major injury after another. He had five knee operations and was so stiff-legged under his tape and protective braces that he resembled a man playing on stilts.

"Namath was like a ghost from the waist down," says Steve Sabol, the experienced president of NFL Films. "It was as if he had no legs. If you look at film of his throwing motion, it was all upper body. He spun like a gun turret when he released the ball."

Namath was an easy target playing behind the Jets' patchwork line. Under a heavy rush each week, he took a terrible pounding. As the losses mounted, the fans began to boo. By 1976, Namath had become a forlorn figure, throwing 16 interceptions to 4 touchdown passes in a 3-11 season.

The following year, Namath was released by the Jets. The team had another young quarterback from Alabama, Richard Todd, and the plan was to build around him. Namath signed with the Los Angeles Rams, hoping he could manage one last hurrah. He struggled through four starts, then was replaced by Pat Haden.

He underwent the replacement surgery in 1992, after several incidents in which his knees, ravaged by surgery and too many games played on painkillers and bravado, collapsed beneath him.

"I knew it was time to quit when I found myself getting bored on the practice field," Namath says. "I didn't play the second half of that season. I was watching practice, and I was bored. I said, 'I don't belong out here anymore.'"

Namath retired following the 1977 season to pursue a career in TV. He did some acting and worked as a football analyst. He also performed in stage productions such as *Damn Yankees*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial*, and *Sugar*, a theatrical version of the Billy Wilder film *Some Like It Hot*.

He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985 after being passed over in his first two years of eligibility. The knock against him at the time was his statistics. His career passer rating was a mediocre 65.6. He threw 220 interceptions compared to 173 touchdown passes. He had only three winning seasons in 12 with the Jets.

To some critics, Broadway Joe was a media creation who had one shining moment and little else.

Nonsense, answers John Madden.

"If there was ever a Hall-of-Fame quarterback, it was Namath," Madden says. "There are some guys whose numbers don't matter. You don't have to count up Lawrence Taylor's tackles to know he's a Hall of Famer. He just is. Same thing with Namath.

"When you played against Namath, you knew you were playing a Hall of Famer. The whole game—everything you did, everything they did, offense, defense—it all revolved around him. He was the guy.

"I watch Dan Marino, Jim Kelly, even Joe Montana, and it is obvious they patterned themselves after Namath. The way they move, the way they throw the ball, it's like watching Namath. He influenced a whole generation of young quarterbacks, guys who have gone on to take teams to the Super Bowl.

Herb Weitman

"That's an impact player."

"Joe didn't play for stats, he played to win," Maynard says. "I see quarterbacks today throw four-yard passes on third-and-fifteen. It goes in the books as a completion, it looks good in the stats, but it don't accomplish a damn thing.

"I never saw Joe throw a ball short of the sticks. If he needed twelve yards for a first down, he threw it fifteen. When he got inside the twenty, he went for the end zone. He got some balls picked off, but he also made a lot of big plays that won games."

Namath's fans—and they far outnumber his detractors—sometimes wonder, "What if?"

What if Joe had played his whole career on two sound knees? What if he had played for a team that was built to last, rather than the Jets, who fell apart in the 1970s?

Namath claims he never gives it a second thought.

"Things turned out well enough for me," he says. "I'd have to be a real jerk to say, 'If only this, if only that....'

"I would've loved to win five Super Bowls, but to win one was more than most guys. Ever since Little League, my dream was to win a world championship in something. I got that chance with the Jets, and we won The Game. We touched a lot of people's lives.

"I can't tell you how many times I've had people tell me they used our win in the Super Bowl as a motivating force. A lot of times it is a high school or college coach who says he showed his team the film or told them the story. Sometimes it's a teacher who talked about it in class. The moral is the same: If the Jets did it, you can do it.

"We sent a message to all the underdogs out there—in sports, in business, in life in general—that, hey, if you want something bad enough and you aren't afraid to lay it on the line, you can come out on top. That is an important message because if people don't have hope, really, what do they have?

"People sometimes ask me, 'What would you have done if you had lost that game?' " Namath says. "Honest to God, I never even thought about that at the time. I'm sure I would have taken a lot of abuse, especially in the press, about my guarantee. But I never gave it a second thought because I was sure we would win.

"If we *had* lost, I wouldn't have run away and hid. I wouldn't have let it ruin my life. I would've come right back firing the next season. I loved the competition, that's why I played. The celebrity part was fun, I won't deny that, but the highlight of my week was game day. Strapping the gear on and playing—I lived for that.

"People have said, 'Gee, all those injuries must have been hard on you.' No, what was hard was losing. I went into every season thinking we would win, but we just didn't have the players in the seventies. The turnover was unbelievable. There were times in the huddle I'd look up and see some lineman I'd never seen before. It's hard to win that way."

Anyone who comes looking for the old Broadway Joe today will be disappointed. He has mellowed to the point where he sometimes wonders if he is boring. He is warm and soft-spoken with no hint of pretense. His house has few reminders of his career. Mostly, it is decorated with photographs of Jessica and Olivia.

On a November evening, Namath was minding the two girls while Tatiana shopped. Jessica was watching "Punky Brewster" in the next room, while Olivia curled up in her father's arms. It was quite a scene, Broadway Joe talking about Super Bowl III ("Bubba Smith was over there, just waiting to tear my head off....") while gently stroking his daughter's brown hair.

"I was upset with Joe," Ewbank says. "I said, 'Shula will use it against us.' Joe said, 'Coach, if they need press clippings to get ready, they're in trouble.'"

Jessica has seen her father shake enough hands and sign enough autographs to know he is someone famous, though the origin of his fame remains a puzzle. He has told her that he played football. Big deal, she says, kids down the street play football.

Tatiana recalls Jessica rushing into the kitchen one day and shouting: "Daddy is on TV!"

"Oh, good," Tatiana thought. "It must be a replay of the Super Bowl, and Jessica will finally get to see what it was that made her father famous."

It turned out to be a "Brady Bunch" rerun with Namath doing a cameo, giving football tips to the boys. Jessica was impressed just the same.

"They will hear about the Super Bowl soon enough," Namath says of his daughters. "They will hear about it a million times. There is no need for me to bore them with it now."

But what will the girls think when they learn their father wasn't simply a football player but Broadway Joe, with his roguish past?

"I'm comfortable with that image," Namath says. "I still like it, even though it doesn't apply anymore. It was fun. Half the stories they told about me were made up or exaggerated anyway.

"I still remember how I got the name. My rookie year, there was a magazine cover with me standing on Broadway. We came back from practice one day and there was a copy of the magazine in each player's locker. I thought, 'Uh-oh, how are the guys gonna react?'

"We had a tackle named Sherman Plunkett, must've weighed 350 pounds, and he had the locker across from me. He looked at the picture and got this big smile on his face. He said, 'Look at that...ol' Broadway...Broadway Joe.' That was how it started.

"All these years, I've never seen anyone say that name and not smile. There is something about it that just seems to make people feel good. I like that...you know, I really do." ◆

David Drapkin (at Jets reunion, 1993)

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CONFESSIONS OF A SUPER PIRATE

BY SCOTT OSTLER

I am a distraction.

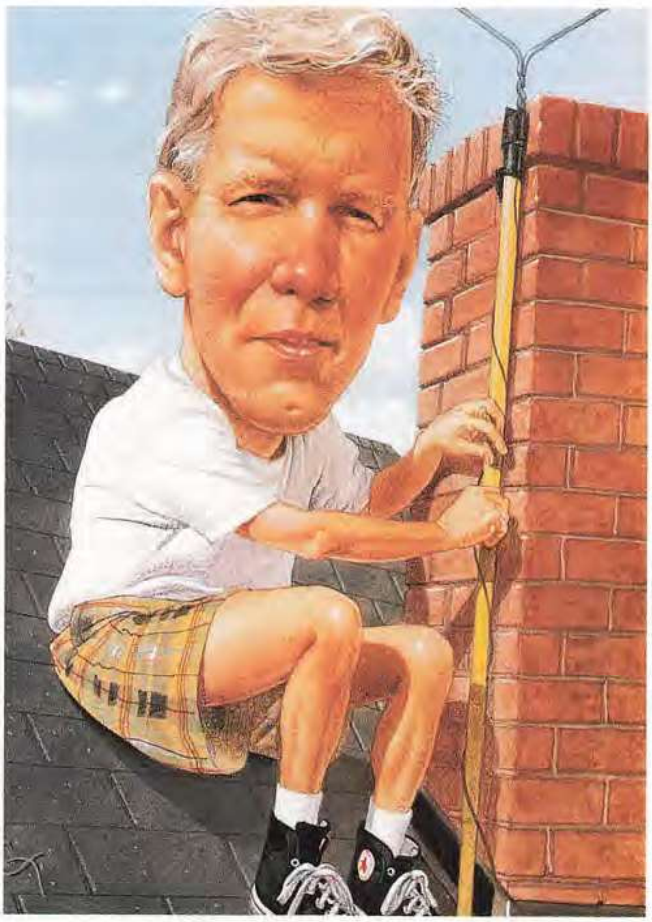
That is my function during Super Bowl Week. As a big-time sportswriter and member of the media, my job is to annoy the players and coaches, to distract their attention from the business of game preparation in an effort to provide reports on the mood of your favorite team.

We bring you reports like, "Today, the mood of the Buffalo Bills can be characterized as annoyed and distracted."

We are not the only distractions, of course. Among the nuisances that have been known to interfere with the players' mental focus are meals, brushing after meals, low-flying aircraft, Nintendo Game Boy, hotel maid services, and world wars.

Yet, despite the distractions, somehow the game takes place every year. Apparently, I am only a minor pain in the neck.

There was a Super Bowl, however, when I was a big pain, when I brought the pro football and TV establishment to its knees. Me and 100,000 other brave pirates.



C.F. Payne

We staged a grass-roots, roof-top insurrection that sent shock waves through the corridors of the NFL, AFL, NBC, CBS, FCC and—who knows—maybe the CIA.

We stole the Super Bowl.

It was January, 1967, and I was annoyed. Because I was a teenager then, saying that I was annoyed is redundant, but I was extra annoyed because of the Super Bowl.

Brief background: The NFL finally decided to acknowledge the existence of the upstart AFL by agreeing to a showdown championship game.

Cool! The AFL was a fun, wide-open league, exemplified by the champion Kansas City Chiefs. It would be great to see what the zany Chiefs could do against the mighty, NFL-champion Green Bay Packers. Who knows? Maybe the Super Bowl would become an annual event.

The game would be played in the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, and would be televised nationally by both NBC and CBS. Tickets, however, were not selling briskly. Can you imagine a problem selling Super Bowl tickets?

Hello, Coliseum switchboard? What time does the Super Bowl start?

What time can you get here?

Yes, that's an old joke, but it was new in 1967.

The situation wasn't quite that bad, but the Coliseum seating capacity was 90,000-plus, and not quite 62,000 tickets would be sold. Even if a lot of the fans were overweight, the stadium would look to be a box-office bomb on TV.

To goose ticket sales, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle pulled the TV plug. About six weeks before the game he announced that the telecast would be blacked out in the greater Los Angeles area.

This, remember, was before satellite dishes or pay-per-view. It was buy a ticket or forget it. As a starving college student in L.A., I couldn't afford a ticket, and the nearest city that would receive the telecast was San Diego.

A Super Bowl blackout buster!

You could get your instructions by mailing an envelope to the station. It still was two weeks before the game, but being a college student, I procrastinated for 13 days, and had to drive to the KRLA studio in Pasadena.

Years later I learned that KRLA came up with the idea six weeks before Super Sunday. "But we figured if we announced it too soon, Rozelle would black out San Diego," then-station manager John Barrett said later.

The idea was no more than a whim to the folks at KRLA, a throwaway bit of fun. They didn't understand the power of pro football. Mail poured into the station, and the phone lines were jammed with requests for antenna instructions. Everyone at the station—accountants, news directors, secretaries, janitors—was pressed into mail and phone duty for two weeks.

The demand snowballed, and the Saturday before the game KRLA deejays, including Kasey Kasem and Bob Eubanks, announced that the instruction sheet could be picked up at the station. A massive traffic jam ensued.

The station distributed about 20,000 copies of the instructions,

friends passed them along to friends, and an estimated 100,000 Super Bowl antennae were lashed together and mounted on buildings across the L.A. basin.

I hurried home and set to work. The antenna consisted of five or six varied lengths of coat-hanger wire attached to a broomstick, which then was wired to your regular rooftop TV aerial.

It was so simple that a fool could put together the antenna in 20 minutes. Mine took two hours because I lacked certain tools, such as electronic aptitude. But I worked happily, humming the theme song from "Mission Impossible." The cost was about 50 cents, not counting the broom I destroyed or the $100 worth of damage to my parents' landscaping and roof, suffered during installation.

I hooked it up Super Sunday morning, turned on my TV, and got pure, dazzling...snow. A quick check of the skies. No, it was not snowing over Los Angeles. The instructions said to twist and rotate the antenna until the picture came in.

Like a pilot flying through a snowstorm, desperately trying to make radar contact, I kept twisting and adjusting the antenna, while my buddy inside the house monitored the screen, until...A PICTURE! YESSS!

I felt like the villain in a James Bond movie. Try to keep me from watching your Super Bowl game NOW, Missster Rozelle. A-HA-HAHAHAHAHA!

My buddy and I kicked back with snacks and soda pop. The TV reception was not fabulous, but we definitely could tell it was a football game, even if it was hard to make out minute objects, such as the football. Had it been a color TV, we would have been able to tell which players were Chiefs and which were Packers.

No matter. What was important was that we were watching the game, and that the people of Los Angeles had delivered a message. Never again would the NFL try to black out a Super Bowl game. (Of course, never again would the Super Bowl not be sold out.)

From a personal standpoint, the rest is history. Inspired by my first crude foray into electronics, I went on to invent the VCR and the microwave oven.

Just kidding. Years later I did learn to *use* a VCR and a microwave oven, though I often confuse the two. I also became a sportswriter, which means I get paid to watch Super Bowls, often from great seats, with free snacks.

Snacks? I get invited to the NFL Commissioner's Party, pal. Astronauts say that the only man-made objects visible from the moon are the Great Wall of China and the seafood buffet table at the Commissioner's Party.

But you know what? For me, the Super Bowl never will be cooler than it was in '67.

Beginning from that first fuzzy image, I became a knowledgeable, professional Super Bowl watcher. Allow me to pass along some valuable insights into viewing the game, on TV and in person.

Don't complain. Got lousy seats? They could be worse. You could be seated on one of the team benches.

It is a fascinating place from which to experience the flavor of the game—the sounds, the intensity, the Gatorade. But you have no idea what's going on. Watching a game from the sidelines is like standing way too close to a LeRoy Neiman painting.

This explains why coaches often seem confused after the game. "I was generally pleased with my team's performance, but I'll know more when I study the tapes and find out whether we won or lost."

Watching a game from the sidelines is like standing too close to a LeRoy Neiman painting.

Watch the talkers. For some reason, the players who do the most talking the week before the game almost always excel on Super Sunday. I exaggerated at the start of this piece when I said the media are a nuisance. Most players actually enjoy their daily chats with the press, and the most convivial players almost always wind up starring in the game.

Prime example: Joe Theismann in Super Bowl XVII, where he quarterbacked the Redskins to a win over Miami. That week Joe would talk your pen dry.

I sometimes wonder what kind of work Theismann went into after football.

Focus. Don't get hung up on extraneous things. Watching one Super Bowl for example, I absentmindedly began pondering the metaphysics of the Miami Dolphins' helmets, causing me to miss five or six crucial commercials.

The Miami helmet features a dolphin wearing a tiny helmet with a 'D' on the side. Shouldn't that dolphin be wearing a Dolphins helmet, which would have a picture of a dolphin wearing a Dolphins helmet?

If the Dolphins are in the Super Bowl, make it a point not to think about this.

Update your gridspeak. Don't mark yourself as a football dinosaur by referring to passes as either "long" or "short." That confusing terminology has been greatly simplified by coaches and TV announcers. Passes now are thrown "underneath the coverage" or "up top." "Nickel package" is another handy term that can be dropped into almost any football conversation, even if you have no idea what it means.

Other useful words and phrases include: Smashmouth football, situation substitution, hang time, red zone, rotating zone, no-parking zone, speed-up offense, speed rush, foot speed, and foot fault.

Digress. If the game becomes a one-sided rout, spice up the conversation with philosophical topics. For instance, aren't you glad the NFL never has resorted to trendy singular nicknames?

The league will lose big style points in my book if it ever starts naming teams the Pittsburgh Steel, the Miami Prickly Heat (helmet: a dolphin with a rash?), the Buffalo Buffalo, or the New England Style Clam Chowder.

Ignore the QB. Novice fans focus exclusively on the quarterback and wind up missing some of the most interesting action on the field.

Try watching the guy who stands behind the head coach and keeps his headphone wire neatly coiled. This is a vital task. One slip-up and the coach could become hopelessly tangled in his own cord, unable to get out of the way of that oncoming railroad train.

Watch for a play from President Clinton. It is rumored he will resume the tradition of the U.S. President designing a play for his favorite team. Richard M. Nixon started and ended this tradition by suggesting a play to Dolphins coach Don Shula for Super Bowl VI. The play failed, and Nixon soon was demoted to private citizen.

Reminisce. People around you at the stadium—or in the bar or living room—love to hear stories about the old days.

Why, I remember when there were no end-zone nets to catch extra-point and field-goal attempts. Balls booted into the stands would touch off spirited free-for-alls.

True story: I dove into one such scrum, grabbed the ball, and tugged—only to find that I had an armlock on a bald man's head.

That couldn't happen today, of course, because of the advent of spray-on hair. ◆

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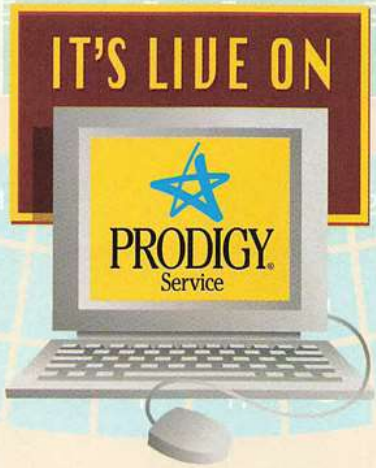

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PEACH OF A PROVING GROUND

NFL Players Are One of Georgia's Top Exports

BY LEN PASQUARELLI

Long before the civil engineers dreamed of turning Route 75 into a fast-track concrete ribbon, on which the locals now like to spend late summer nights emulating their favorite NASCAR drivers, the good folks in Griffin, Georgia, would pack a picnic lunch on a Sunday afternoon and pile into the family car for a day trip of both aesthetic and practical nature. They casually would traverse the winding dirt roads east to Indian Springs or perhaps southeast to High Falls. Maybe, as a special treat, they'd head further southeast into the heart of the awe-inspiring Oconee National Forest.

And in those quiet cathedrals they would sample the breathtaking beauty of the state's flora and fauna. Before the sun set and they headed back home, they would stop to fill Mason jars or green-glass Coca-Cola bottles or even rusting tin basins with some of the sparkling spring water from the backwoods creeks that once criss-crossed those parks.

Whether there was some mystical, strength-giving elixir in those unspoiled waters we may never know.

But Dujuan Wright, who grew up in Griffin and listened to her kin talk about those Sunday outings, saw the size and strength of her strapping 6-foot 10-inch daddy, and of her equally powerful uncles and cousins—and thinks she knows.

"Well, you would think there's something in that water, wouldn't you?" Dujuan says. "Either that or in the genes. I mean, there's got to be something about this place; some sort of common denominator. Somewhere, somehow, some way, there's a link that allows this to happen."

Indeed, how else to explain the fact that Dujuan's uncle, Rayfield Wright, went on to play 13 seasons at offensive tackle, six of them as a Pro Bowl selection, for the Dallas Cowboys? Or that her second cousin, Morris Stroud, was a behemoth tight end (6-10) for the Kansas City Chiefs for a half-dozen NFL seasons?

Or, for that matter, that her high school sweetheart and now her husband, Jessie Tuggle, could overcome incredible odds—playing collegiately at tiny Valdosta State and entering the NFL as an undrafted free agent—to become a Pro Bowl inside linebacker for the Atlanta Falcons?

The water? Heredity? Just plain ol' serendipity that all these Griffin natives should become NFL players of some renown? Maybe in another 20 years or so, when Jessie and Dujuan's son, Justin, is cracking helmets in the NFL, the league will fund a study to explore beyond the anecdotal evidence.

"And then," says Jessie Tuggle, laughing at the prospects of an undertaking that doubtless would qualify for one of Sen. William Proxmire's famed Golden Fleece awards, "we'll get to the bottom of this super subculture we've produced in Griffin."

Mary Ann Norris

Scott Cunningham

Herschel Walker (above) and Sterling Sharpe (below) are two of the most prominent Georgians in the league.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Courtesy of the Sharpe Family

All kidding aside, how is it that a city such as Griffin, with a population of 23,600, could produce four current NFL players—Tuggle, Raiders wide receiver Willie Gault, Browns running back Randy Baldwin, and Falcons safety Alton Montgomery?

"See, around here we don't think [this degree of success] is that unusual," says Irving Rose, vice principal and assistant football coach at Griffin High School. "Maybe we got spoiled. Who knows? But we hold these players up as an example of what you can do with yourself if you develop good work habits. And I'll tell you from personal experience, 'cause I spent a lot of hours working with him from the ground up, that somebody like Jessie Tuggle has a heart as big as this whole darned state.

"That kind of thing—it just grows on the young-uns."

Tuggle, a self-made physical oddity who averaged more than 200 tackles over the last three seasons, says, "You look at a map and you see that between Griffin and Atlanta to the north and Macon to the south, there are a lot of rural areas. Those places breed that blue-collar kind of work ethic. In fact, they demand it. For all the supposed growing up our cities have done, there's still a lot of small town in this state.

"My dad drove a tractor-trailer to keep us going. My mother, I can still remember her getting up extra early every morning to iron school clothes for all six of us kids. When you see that kind of stuff, you'd be embarrassed not to measure up. Get a little bit off the beaten path, and you need discipline and hard work and all those old-fashioned values. I think those are things we still embrace throughout this state."

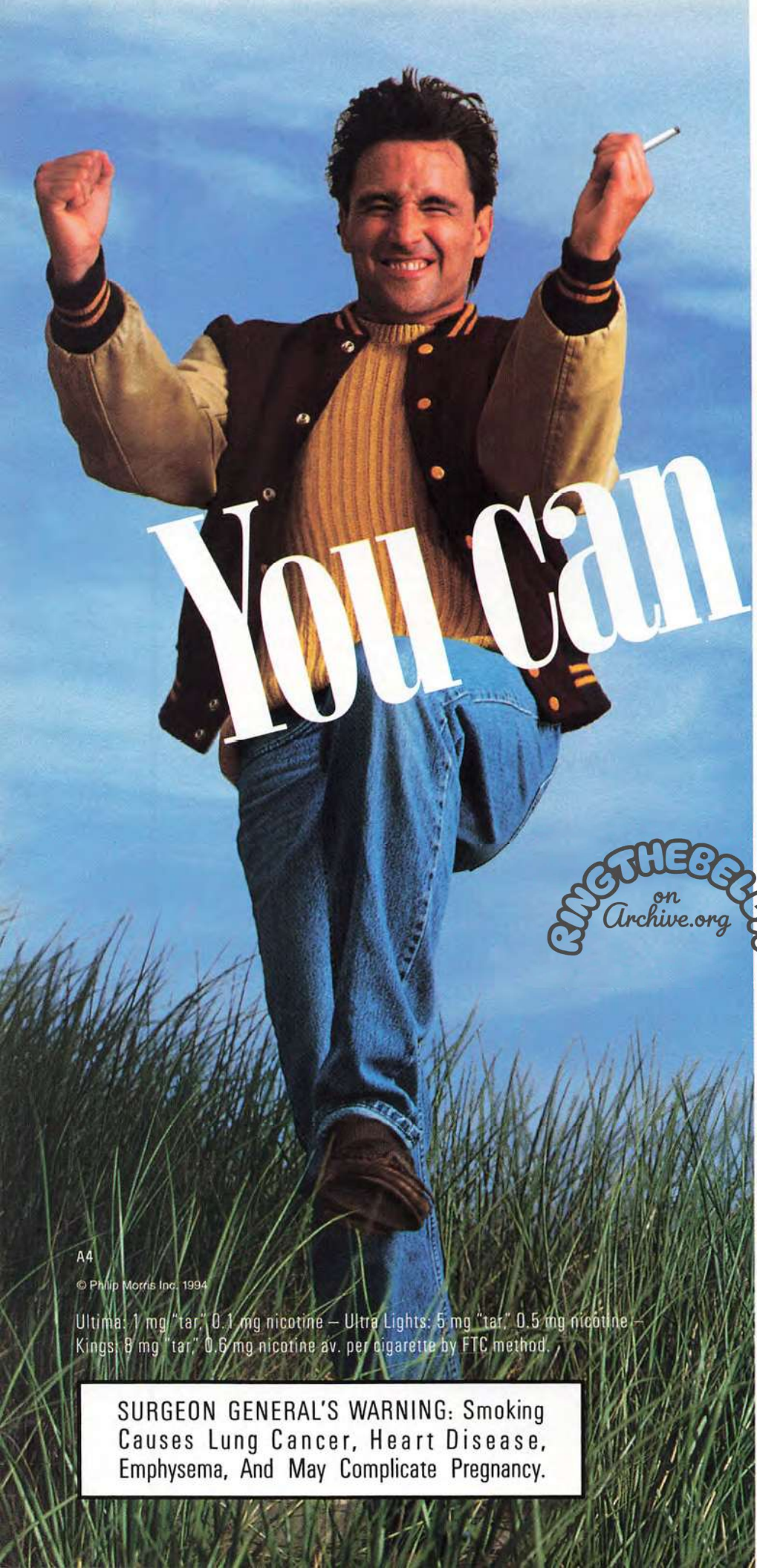
So it seems.

Fact: One in every 38 Americans is a Georgian. By comparison, 1 in 17 players who went to training camp with an NFL team in the summer of 1993 claimed a Georgia high school as his starting point.

Of the 28 current teams in the NFL, only one, the New Orleans Saints, did not have at least one Georgia-bred player on its roster at season's end. And only nine clubs failed to list a player with Georgia roots as a starter.

Two current NFL head coaches, Dan Reeves of the New York Giants and Sam Wyche of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, were born in Rome and Atlanta, respectively. Reeves spent most of his young life growing up in Americus, a small burg up the road from Plains, which was made famous by former President Jimmy Carter. Five assistant coaches were born in Georgia, and three more spent most of their pre-teen years there.

In Georgia, there is an NFL player for every 455.1 square miles of land-mass area. Bring each NFL player with a Georgia background home, and 1 out of every 50,046 residents of the Peach



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State would be drawing a check from one of the 28 teams. Those are ratios no other state—not even those with lush gridiron heritages such as Pennsylvania, Texas, and California—can match.

"I think you wear [the Georgia heritage] as a sort of badge," Reeves says. "I honestly do."

The badges are earned in the highlands of Toccoa, near the North Georgia mountains where Georgia is bounded by both Carolinas, and in the flatlands of Savannah, where the fields are flooded every spring. From as far east as Augusta, which is closer to Columbia, South Carolina, than to Atlanta, and as far west as Columbus, in the heart of Auburn country.

From the biggest city, Atlanta, which turned out sackman Richard Dent; to a small town such as Wrightsville, the 3,000-person hamlet that produced Herschel Walker. And from a well-to-do high school such as Atlanta's Dunwoody, where the blocking sleds are better than those used in some of the state's small colleges, to a hand-me-down facility like Appling County High School.

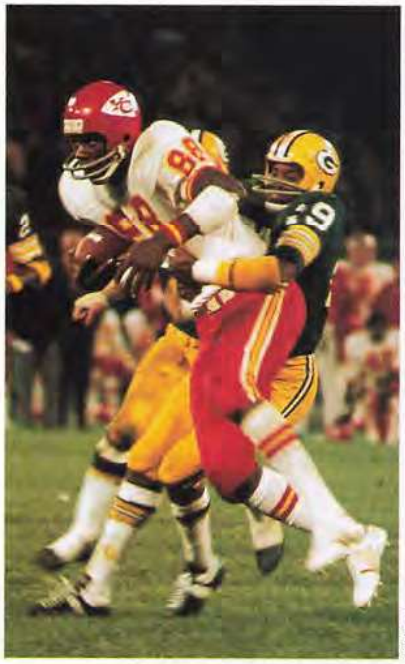
"We were taught from the beginning that size doesn't matter," says San Francisco 49ers running back/return specialist Dexter Carter, who grew up in Baxley (population: 3,500) and played at Appling County. "Your size, your school's size, all the money in the world, all the fancy uniforms—they don't count unless you *want* it. And guys from Georgia, we all seem to want it, and want it bad."

Mull over these NFL hometowns in Georgia: Adel, Cordele, Ellijay, Fort Valley, La Grange, Lincolnton, Moultrie, Pelham, Rochelle, Snellville, Vidalia, Warner Robins. None of those cities, which produced 22 current or former NFL players, possesses a population of even 50,000. In fact, there are only four cities in the entire state with 100,000 or more people, and only Atlanta has more than 200,000.

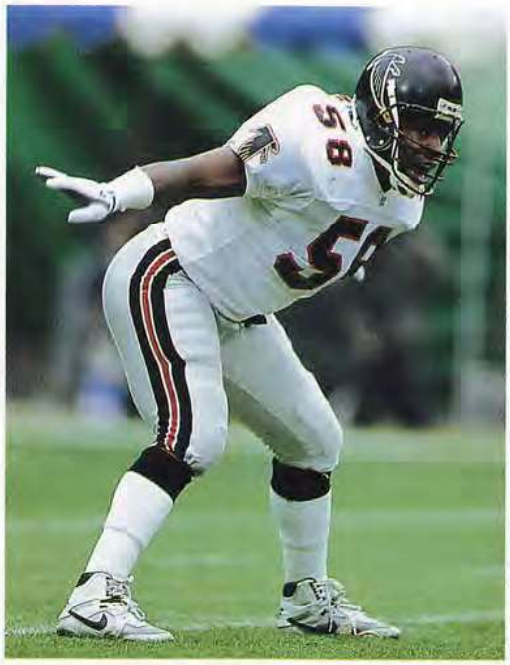
"You know the old joke about the coach who comes in and announces that the team is finally going to get to change T-shirts, and then says, 'Okay, Joe, you change with Bob, and Bob, you change with Jim'? Well, we were that joke," says Denver wide receiver Arthur Marshall, who played at tiny Hephzibah High School. "We were having so much fun, though, we didn't know we didn't have much."

What Georgians do know is that they play a brand of prep football that prepares young men to move on—not just to the next level, but to the ultimate level.

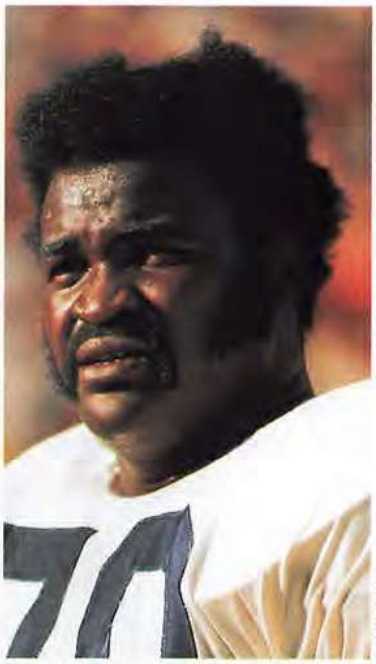
Given the popularity of the Super Bowl XXVII-champion Dallas Cowboys, the state of Texas rightfully can lay claim to "America's Team." But the state of Georgia has a fair argument for billing itself as "America's Factory" of NFL players.



R.H. Stagg



Al Messerschmidt



John E. Biever

The football men in Dujuan Wright's life include her husband, Falcons linebacker Jessie Tuggle, flanked by second cousin Morris Stroud (88, left) and uncle Rayfield Wright (right).

"To have that disproportionate number of players come out of one state, it's really amazing," says New York Giants center Bart Oates, an Albany (pronounced All-BENNY) native who played high school football there. "It just can't be happenstance, either. But I'll be darned if I know how to explain it."

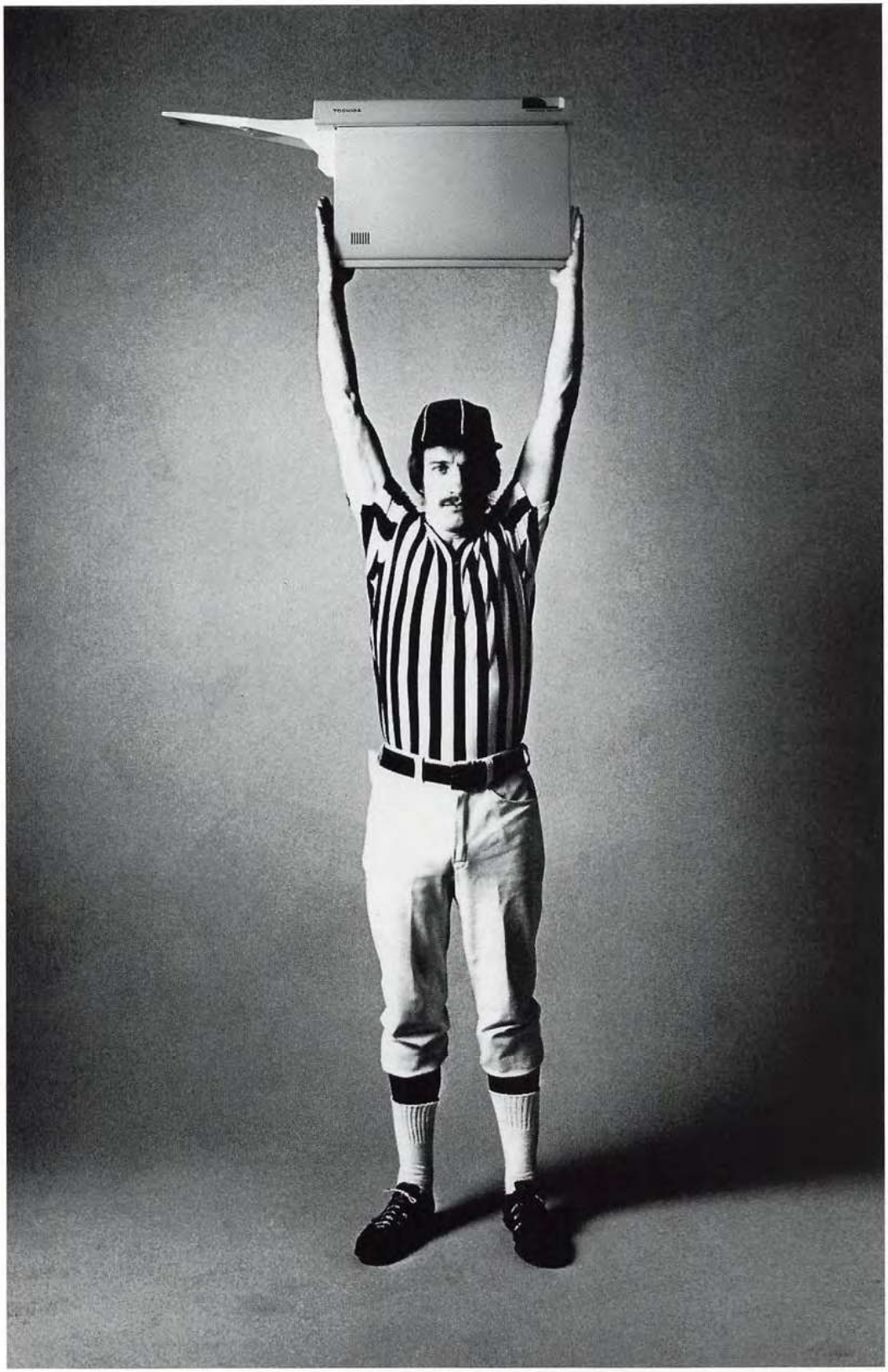
Those souls daring enough to make an attempt, however, point to three key factors in Georgia's well-documented NFL tradition:

Not (necessarily) their brother's keeper...

In the NFL's 74-year history, 184 brother combinations have passed through the league. None of them, William Hall likes to boast to his audience when he stops in at the local coffee shop, could ever lick the Sharpe boys two-on-two. Pick your sport, says Hall, who coaches football, basketball, and track at Glennville High School (40 miles southwest of Savannah), and then be prepared to play the role of foil as Sterling and Shannon Sharpe whup you.

That is, if you can ever get them to play on the same side.

"Not that they don't love each other now, 'cause they honestly do," Hall says. "But there's this real sneaky,



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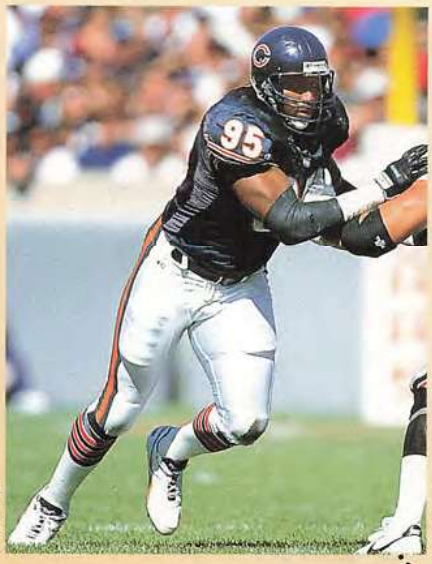
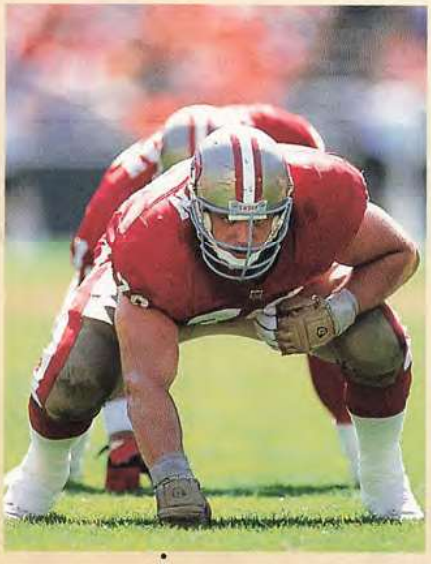

Ron Vesely


Dave Stock

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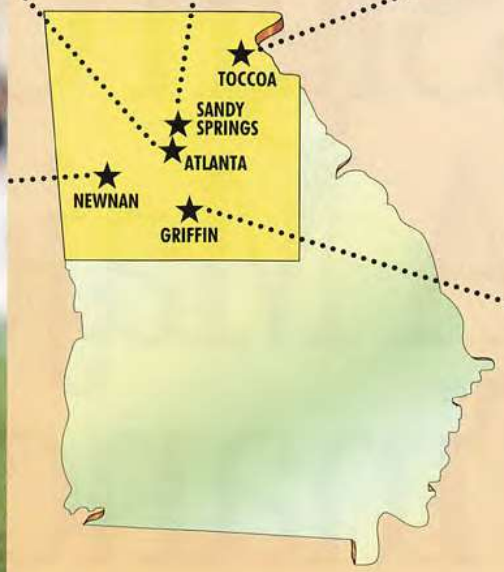

NORTHERN GEORGIA

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Clockwise from top left: Chicago defensive end Richard Dent, San Francisco tackle Harris Barton, Detroit linebacker Pat Swilling, Raiders wide receiver Willie Gault, and Atlanta wide receiver Drew Hill.

under-the-surface kind of thing they've always had. You can call it what you want, one-upmanship or whatever. But the best thing that ever happened to Sterling Sharpe was Shannon, who I actually think is the better overall [athlete]. And the best thing that ever happened to Shannon was he tried to match everything Sterling ever did here, which was plenty."

The elder brother by three years, Sterling, an all-pro wide receiver for the Green Bay Packers, always has blazed the trail for Team Sharpe. One of the Eastern Seaboard's most talented athletes as a senior at tucked-away Glennville, he went off to South Carolina and became the Packers' first-round draft choice in 1988. He signed one of the most lucrative contracts ever awarded an NFL wide receiver in 1992, then justified it by establishing a league single-season receiving mark with 108 catches.

All of which served as an inspiration for Shannon, who went to college right up the road at Savannah State, wasn't selected until the seventh round of the 1990 draft, and struggled before finally finding his niche as a hybrid H-back/tight end/slot receiver for the Denver Broncos.

It seems that especially in rural Georgia, forced to choose between sibling and occupational rivalries, brothers frequently will display a preference for the former.

"Me, I think I was the human carrot dangling in front of his nose," says Sterling, a lean thoroughbred athlete. "Here in Georgia, sometimes when you're growing up

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the only people you have to compete against are your brothers and sisters. Our family, we're very athletic. The best players we could find were right in our own house, under our own noses."

Shannon, who is gaining a reputation as one of the NFL's most diverse ballhawks, agreed that he grew up squinting into Sterling's shadows—emulating his older brother while still attempting to forge his identity.

"The ties are strong, but you don't want them to be a safety rope," Shannon says. "For a long time, the only identity I had was as 'Sterling Sharpe's kid brother.' I'm proud of that, but it gets old, too. But, sure, it was a driving force."

In much the same manner that the reputation of Tracy Rocker, now out of the league, prodded his younger brother, David, a defensive tackle with the Rams. Or that Detroit Lions Pro Bowl linebacker Pat Swilling became the ideal for cousin Kenny, a three-time All-America safety at Georgia Tech who has failed in tryouts with three different NFL teams.

Ron Vesely

Ron Vesely

Dan Reeves (above) of Americus; Sam Wyche of Atlanta

"When you're playing against family," Pat Swilling says, "there's a certain ESP, the kind we all know. And then there's another ESP—we call it 'Extra Special Put-Out' because you've actually got to go harder against family than you do non-kin. And that makes you tougher."

Geographically speaking, y'all...

Point your car north on State Road 319 out of Tallahassee, head for the Georgia-Florida border, and, about 10 miles beyond the imaginary line of demarcation that separates the bitter-rival states, a hand-lettered sign still hangs on an all-but-dead tree just outside of Moncrief. Or at least it did last fall.

Battered and faded by the elements, you have to squint hard to see the message, scrawled in orange felt-tip marker on a yellowed cardboard background: "Still 'Noles Country, Sucker!"

Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive end and 1993 first-round draft pick Eric Curry

Georgians Have a Leg Up

No sense kicking...

Don't ever try making that remark, even casually, to a placement specialist at any Georgia high school. Given the number of players from the state who currently are kicking and/or punting in the league, the most likely response from an NFL wanna-be with decent range and accuracy is apt to be a field-goal attempt that splits the uprights of your ears.

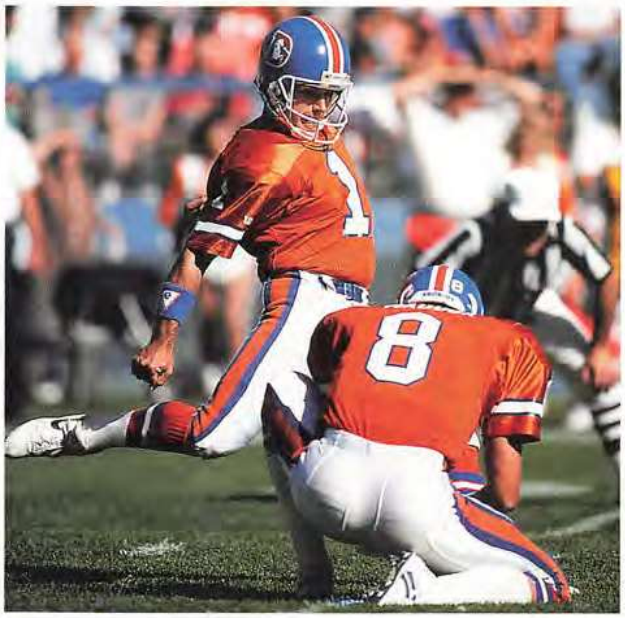
"In the last few years, we've really gained a reputation for developing kickers," says the Phoenix Cardinals' Greg Davis, one of six NFL kickers from Atlanta or its surrounding area. "First there was just Kevin [Butler of the Bears] and me. Now, every time you check to see who you're kicking against, it seems like it's a guy you know from back home."

In addition to Davis and Butler, the other footmen with Georgia backgrounds are Jason Elam of Denver, Chris Gardocki (who punts and handles kickoffs) of the Bears, New England's Scott Sisson, and John Kasay of Seattle. Both Elam and Sisson were rookies in 1993.

What are the odds that you could find six kickers with this kind of talent within 100 miles of the same city? "The odds would be off the board in Las Vegas," says former Falcons kicker Mick Luckhurst, who still resides in suburban Atlanta. "It really is a fascinating coincidence."

Kasay, who prepped at Clarke Central High School, a good extra point away from the University of Georgia, disagrees with the coincidence part. He points out that in many parts of the state, soccer has grown into a very popular pastime. And, he concedes, the success of Butler, who earned a Super Bowl ring with the Bears, helped foster a new generation of soccer stars who saw a chance to make it in football.

Butler, Gardocki, and Davis all come from DeKalb County, which abuts the city of Atlanta and which was one of the pioneer locales in the state for youth soccer. As recently as five years ago, in fact, age-group soccer had more participants than Little League baseball in parts of DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties.



Ron Vesely

Jason Elam: among the most recent to get a foot in the NFL door

Davis, who had two different stints with the hometown Falcons before departing for Phoenix via Plan B free agency in 1991, adds, "When my mother would pack us into the car for soccer practice, I'd kind of roll my eyes and bite my tongue. Now I'm happy she got me interested."

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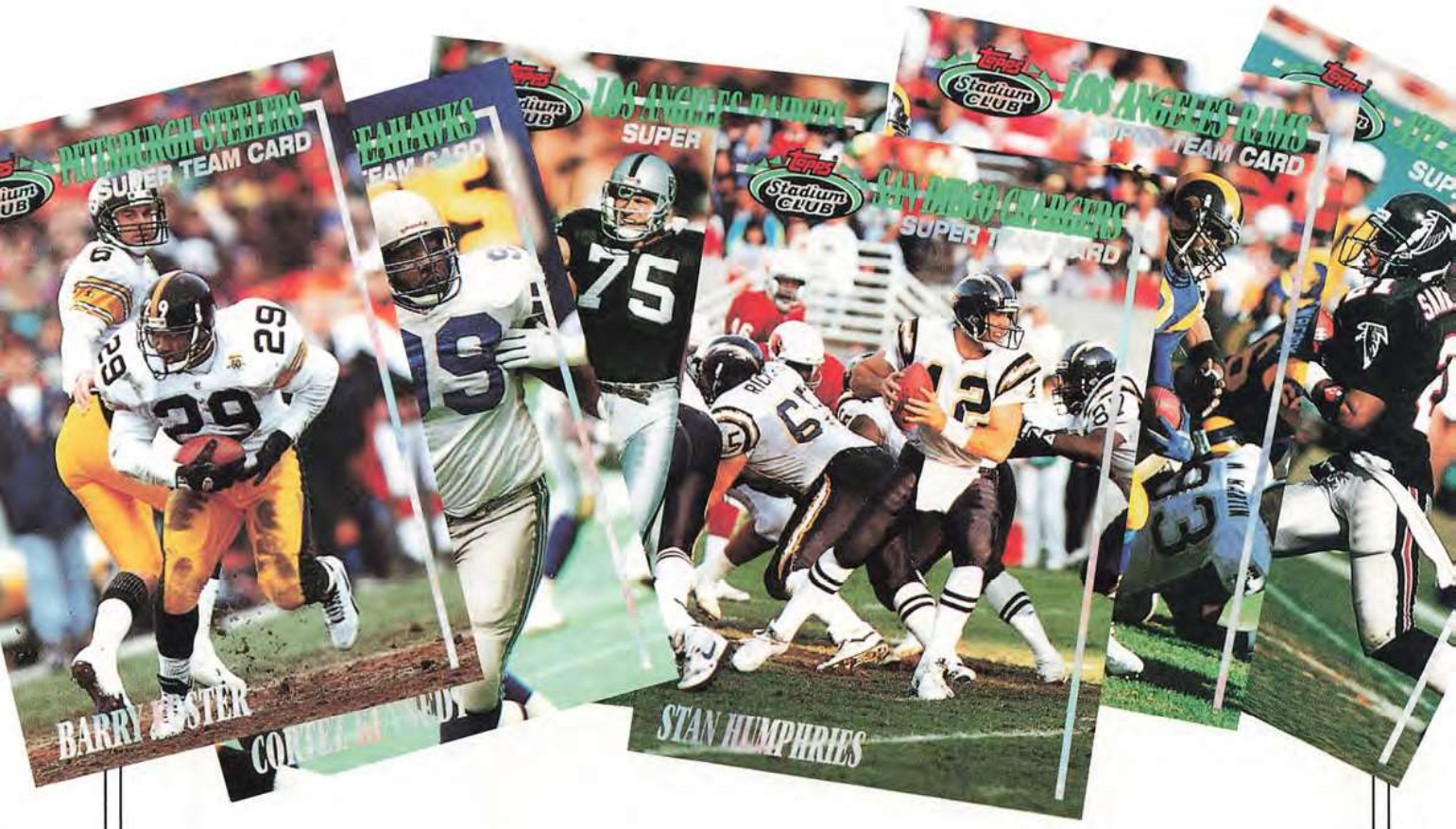

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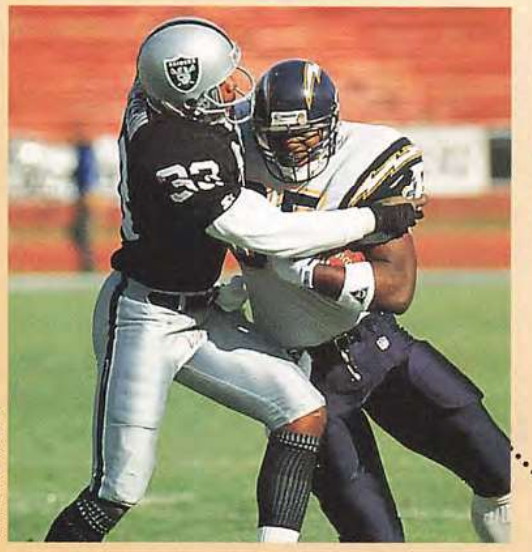
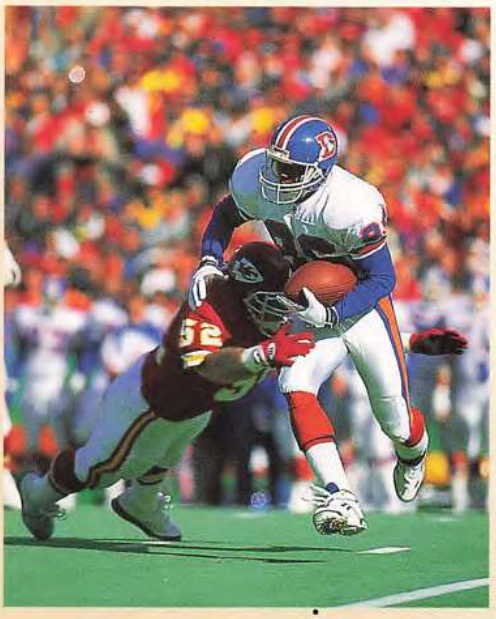
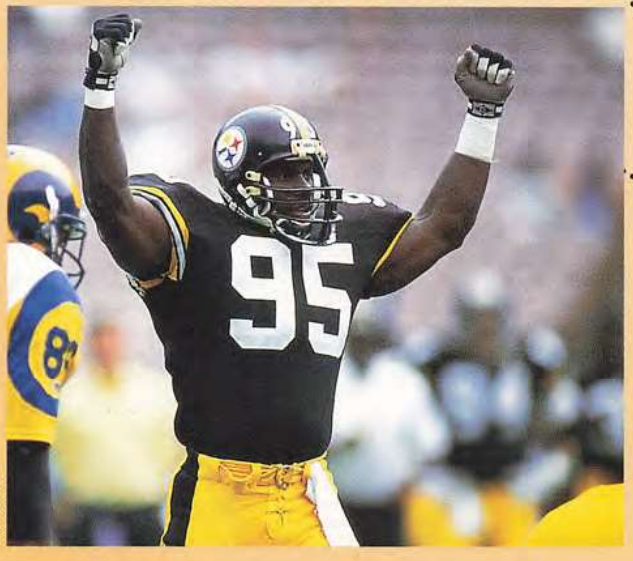


David Martin Graham

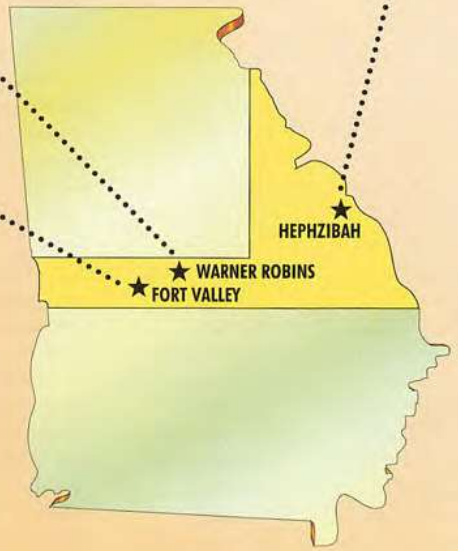
Clockwise from top left: Raiders safety Eddie Anderson (33), Denver wide receiver Arthur Marshall, and Pittsburgh linebacker Greg Lloyd.



Tony Tomsic



Rob Brown



is one of seven current NFL players who grew up in nearby Thomasville, a city of about 19,000 located (honest) halfway between Cairo and Boston. Curry never has seen the placard, but he knows all about the Florida State Seminoles, who, along with the University of Florida and the University of Miami, long have attempted to annex talent-rich southern Georgia as a God-given recruiting territory. (Case in point: Charlie Ward, who grew up in Thomasville before opting for Florida State, where he quarterbacked the team to a national championship and won the 1993 Heisman Trophy.)

The gargle-with-gravel voice of legendary Georgia Bulldogs play-by-play man Larry ("Hunker Down You Hairy Dogs") Munson is heard in every living room in the state. But increasingly, Curry says, the siren song being sung most often in the border high schools of Georgia is the sales pitch of out-of-state colleges.

"They know the brand of ball we play 'round here," says Curry, who ended up at Alabama, where he played for coach Gene Stallings's 1992 national championship team. "The Florida schools, the ones from the Carolinas, 'Bama, Auburn…they'll never pick the bones clean, but they're getting their share of the meat, you know?"

And since most of the universities in the Southeastern Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference (along with Miami in the Big East) are prime suppliers to the NFL, the top high school stars from Georgia pay keen attention when assistant coaches come calling, letters-of-intent in hand. For that matter, high school head coaches concede that they sometimes tailor their offensive and defensive schemes to match those of the nearby schools. Thus has been developed a unique subset of Georgia prep stars who ultimately have moved their game—and in some cases, their speciality—to the NFL.

"I do believe now that there are some nooks and crannies where the colleges know they can fill a certain [position] need," says Philadelphia Eagles running

back Herschel Walker, perhaps the best-known player ever to come out of the state. "Kids look around at the close-by schools and they see the style [played] there. And they go out and pretend they're playing for that school."

In south Georgia, the emphasis seems to be on quickness. Toward the west, and the Alabama schools, defense is a priority. In the East, where Clemson and the Tobacco Road schools have made dents, running backs often flourish. For whatever reason, the best linemen seem to come from Atlanta and its suburbs. A little further south, but still in the central portion of the state, linebackers and safeties have made their marks.

"Our feeling's always been that if you come into our turf, we'll hit you so hard they'll hear it in Atlanta," says Raiders safety Eddie Anderson, a Warner Robins product.

"Everybody wants to be labeled as tough," adds former Fort Valley star Greg Lloyd, a Pro Bowl linebacker for the Steelers. "But different areas here have different species of tough, see?"

David Kelly, the football coach at Dunwoody High School in Atlanta, feels that the biggest residual impact the competing colleges create is the need for upgraded and detailed coaching—a by-product that helps Georgia athletes surpass their contemporaries from other states.

The 1993 Peach Crop

Player, Position, Team	High School	Town
Allen, Terry, RB, Minn.	Banks County	Homer
Anderson, Eddie, S, Raiders	Warner Robins	Warner Robins
Arnold, Jim, P, Det.	Dalton	Dalton
Baldwin, Randy, RB, Clev.	Griffin	Griffin
Banks, Chip, LB, Ind.	Lucy Laney	Augusta
Banks, Fred, WR, Chi.	Baker	Columbus
Barton, Harris, T, S.F.	Dunwoody	Dunwoody
Brown, Vincent, LB, N.E.	W. F. George	Decatur
Brown, Chad, DE, Phx.	Thomasville	Thomasville
Bryant, Jeff, DE, Sea.	Gordon	Decatur
Bussey, Barney, S, T.B.	Lincoln County	Lincolnton
Butler, Kevin, K, Chi.	Redan	Redan
Butts, Marion, RB, S.D.	Worth Academy	Sylvester
Byner, Earnest, RB, Wash.	Baldwin	Milledgeville
Carter, Dale, CB, K.C.	Newton County	Covington
Carter, Dexter, RB, S.F.	Appling County	Baxley
Carter, Marty, S, T.B.	La Grange	La Grange
Copeland, Danny, S, Wash.	Central	Thomasville
Curry, Eric, DE, T.B.	Thomasville	Thomasville
Davis, Antone, T, Phil.	Peach County	Fort Valley
Davis, Greg, K, Phx.	Lakeside	Atlanta
Davis, John, G, Buf.	Gilmer	Ellijay
Dent, Richard, DE, Chi.	J.C. Murphy	Atlanta
Donaldson, Ray, C, Sea.	Rome	Rome
Dunson, Walter, WR, S.D.	Central	Carrollton
Edwards, Antonio, DE, Sea.	Colquitt County	Moultrie
Elam, Jason, K, Den.	Brookwood	Snellville
Evans, Charles, RB, Minn.	Glen Hills	Augusta
Floyd, Eric, T/G, Phil.	West Rome	Rome
Gardocki, Chris, P, Chi.	Redan	Redan
Gault, Willie, WR, Raiders	Griffin	Griffin
Graves, Rory, T, Minn.	Columbia	Decatur
Green, Eric, TE, Pitt.	A.E. Beach	Savannah
Green, Victor, CB, N.Y.J.	Americus	Americus
Green, Willie, WR, Det.	Clarke Central	Athens
Griffin, Don, CB, S.F.	Mitchell-Baker	Camilla
Guyton, Myron, S, N.Y.G.	Central	Thomasville
Hastings, Andre, WR, Pitt.	Morrow	Morrow
Hearst, Garrison, RB, Phx.	Lincoln County	Lincolnton
Hill, Drew, WR, Atl.	Newnan	Newnan
Hunter, Jeff, DE, Mia.	Warren County	Hephzibah
Johnson, Jimmie, TE, Det.	T.W. Josey	Augusta
Johnson, John, LB, S.F.	La Grange	La Grange
Jones, Fred, WR, K.C.	Southwest DeKalb	Decatur
Jones, Shawn, S, Minn.	Thomasville	Thomasville
Jones, Tony, T, Clev.	Franklin County	Royston
Kasay, John, K, Sea.	Clarke Central	Athens
Land, Dan, CB, Raiders	Seminole County	Donalsonville
Lewis, Mo, LB, N.Y.J.	J.C. Murphy	Atlanta
Lewis, Nate, WR, S.D.	Colquitt County	Moultrie
Lloyd, Greg, LB, Pitt.	Peach County	Fort Valley
Marshall, Arthur, WR, Den.	Hephzibah	Hephzibah
Mathis, Terance, WR, N.Y.J.	Redan	Redan
McIntyre, Guy, G, S.F.	Thomasville	Thomasville
Millen, Alec, T, N.Y.J.	Marist	Atlanta
Mohr, Chris, P, Buff.	Briarwood Academy	Thomson
Montgomery, Alton, S, Atl.	Griffin	Griffin
Mustafaa, Najee, CB, Clev.	Russell	East Point
Oates, Bart, C, N.Y.G.	Albany	Albany
Odomes, Nate, CB, Buff.	Carver	Columbus
Porter, Kevin, S, N.Y.J.	Warner Robins	Warner Robins
Pritchett, Kelvin, DE, Det.	Therrell	Atlanta
Reed, Jake, WR, Minn.	Newton County	Covington
Roberts, Tim, DT, Hou.	Therrell	Atlanta
Rocker, David, DT, Rams	Fulton	Atlanta
Rudolph, Coleman, DE, N.Y.J.	Valdosta	Valdosta
Sadowski, Troy, TE, N.Y.J.	Chamblee	Chamblee
Sharpe, Shannon, TE, Den.	Glennville	Glennville
Sharpe, Sterling, WR, G.B.	Glennville	Glennville
Shelton, Richard, DB, Pitt.	Marietta	Marietta
Simpson, Carl, DT, Chi.	Appling County	Baxley
Sims, William, LB, Minn.	Brooks County	Brooks County
Smith, Ben, CB, Phil.	Warner Robins	Warner Robins
Smith, Chuck, DE, Atl.	Clarke Central	Athens
Stargell, Tony, DB, Indy.	La Grange	La Grange
Stephens, Rod, LB, Sea.	North Fulton	Atlanta
Stock, Mark, WR, Wash.	Marist	Atlanta
Stokes, Fred, DE, Rams	Vidalia	Vidalia
Strong, Mack, FB, Sea.	Brookstone	Columbus
Sutton, Ricky, DL, Pitt.	Tucker	Tucker
Swilling, Pat, LB, Det.	Stephens County	Toccoa
Tharpe, Larry, T, Det.	Southwest	Macon
Tippins, Ken, LB, Atl.	Cooks	Adel
Tuggle, Jessie, LB, Atl.	Griffin	Griffin
Walker, Herschel, RB, Phil.	Johnson County	Wrightsville
Wallace, Steve, T, S.F.	Chamblee	Chamblee
West, Ronnie, WR, Minn.	Wilcox County	Rochelle
Wheeler, Leonard, CB, Cin.	Stephens County	Toccoa
Whitaker, Danta, TE, Chi.	W.F. George	Atlanta
Wright, Alexander, WR, Raiders	Albany	Albany

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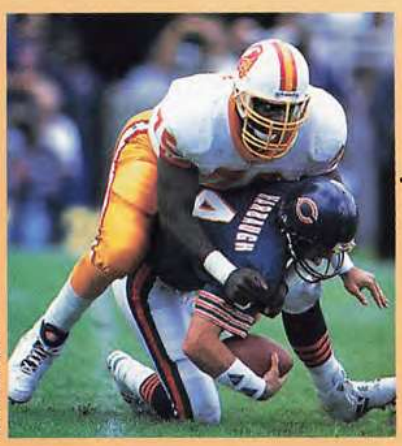
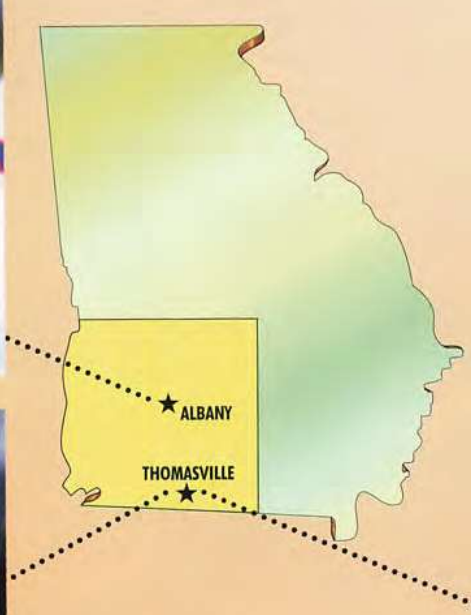


Allen Dean Steele

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA



Scott Cunningham

Clockwise from top left: Giants center Bart Oates, Washington safety Danny Copeland, and Tampa Bay defensive end Eric Curry.

Just Passing Through

Manny Rubio

Even some out-of-staters turn into Bulldogs or Yellow Jackets.

The following athletes attended Georgia colleges after growing up elsewhere.

Georgia Tech
Willie Clay, CB, *Detroit*
Marco Coleman, LB, *Miami*
Russell Freeman, T, *Denver*
Dave Lutz, G-T, *Detroit*
Mike Mooney, T, *San Diego*
Mark Pike, DE, *Buffalo*
Rick Strom, QB, *Pittsburgh*

University of Georgia
Scott Adams, G-T, *Minnesota*
Rodney Hampton, RB, *New York Giants*
Terry Hoage, S, *Houston*
Tim Worley, RB, *Pittsburgh*

Albany State
Kenneth Gant, S, *Dallas*

"We know the colleges are coming and we want our kids to be ready," Kelly says.

Every town has a main street, it's just the number of lanes that differ...

He owns a championship ring from the Washington Redskins' victory over Buffalo in Super Bowl XXVI and has been hailed as a hero in his hometown of Vidalia, where he may be the city's most notable export outside of its world-famous sweet onions.

But if Los Angeles Rams defensive end Fred Stokes ever is fortunate enough to be part of another NFL title team, he knows exactly what he wants to do: Load up all his teammates in open-air convertibles and parade them through the city where he grew up and first began to dream the NFL dream.

"The big cities like Atlanta, they get to experience the NFL first hand," Stokes says. "But all across this state, there are towns that live out the NFL dream vicariously, through the players they've helped put into the league with their support or whatever.

"Wouldn't it be neat, just once, to bring the NFL to them?"

The same thing happens to your body.

It's hard to believe, but the same thing that rusts the paint off your car may also wear down your body.

It's called oxidation and it happens every time you take a breath.

Simply explained, whenever oxygen enters your system, so-called "free radicals" can be formed. Many scientists believe these unstable particles are a leading cause of cell damage.

In fact, recent studies suggest that free radicals may play a significant role in the development of heart disease and cancer.

Oxidation, the process that breaks down an apple and turns it brown, may also cause cell damage in your body.

Studies also suggest that foods rich in antioxidant vitamins, like C, E and Beta Carotene, may neutralize many of the free radicals in your body.

Unfortunately, we don't always eat the way we should. This is where an intelligent regimen of vitamins may be able to help.

While studies haven't proven that vitamin supplements offer the same protection as foods rich in antioxidants, we at Nature Made® have combined high levels of C, E and Beta Carotene into one easy to swallow softgel.

Introducing our new Antioxidant Formula. Just like all our vitamins, our new formula contains no artificial colors, flavors or preservatives.

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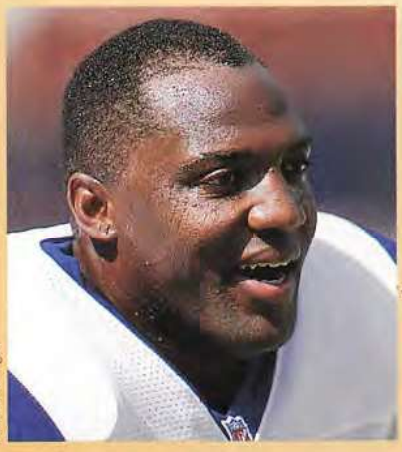
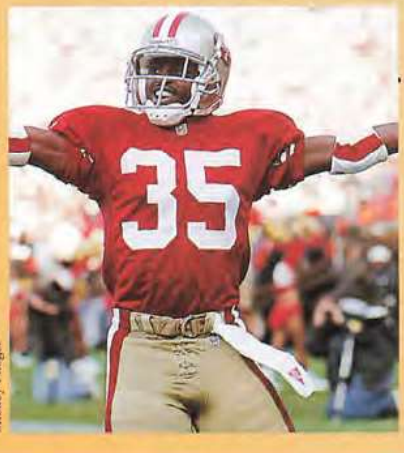


Gerald Gallegos

SOUTHEAST GEORGIA



Mickey Pfleger

William R. Sallaz

Clockwise from top left: Rams defensive end Fred Stokes, Broncos tight end Shannon Sharpe, and 49ers running back Dexter Carter.

Notes Redskins safety Danny Copeland, who frequently returns to Thomasville, and who nearly signed with the Falcons as a free agent last spring because of their proximity to home: "It's not an ego trip. It's just a trip back to the place that gave you the nudge."

Of the nearly 100 Georgians on NFL rosters last fall, approximately half came from cities outside an 80-mile radius of Atlanta. Most of them were aided by peewee coaches and junior-high mentors they'll likely never see again.

"Those people," says Falcons receiver and Newnan native Drew Hill, "ought to get their chance to take a bow, too."

Indeed, in Georgia, high school football players can blossom into NFL stars no matter what their ZIP codes are.

The small-town conquerors have allowed that dream to be perpetuated in the hearts and imaginations of those who followed them. But there also is an undercurrent of rural/urban rivalry within the state's borders that helps prod the underdog toward excellence. (It's also seen every December during the state's playoff system.)

But unlike Stokes, not every kid with an RFD postal delivery wants to get back to where he once belonged. Some just want to get out, and they see professional football as a handy escape mechanism.

As for the city kids—such as San Francisco offensive tackle Harris Barton or Chicago defensive end Richard Dent—they just seem to have the need to see their names in the big-city lights with which they are familiar.

"Growing up around Atlanta, it's dog-eat-dog," Dent says. "People laugh at that survival of the fittest stuff…but it's a fact of life. The competition is something else. You'd better be prepared to throw it in overdrive, baby."

Barton, who grew up near The Perimeter (the unofficial dividing line between Atlanta and its suburbs) and played for David Kelly at Dunwoody High School, comes from a different background than Dent, but he relishes the same challenge. It may not, he allows, be unique to Georgia, but it's part of what makes many of the state's players successful at football's highest possible stratum.

"That song, 'New York, New York'?" Barton says. "You know, the old, 'If I can make it there, I'll make it anywhere'? That's kind of the armor we wear in Georgia. It's served a lot of us well."

Pittsburgh's Lloyd agrees. And he adds that it doesn't matter whether you're from midtown Atlanta or the Georgia countryside.

"For a lot of years, I resented that small-town image people hung on me," Lloyd says. "Small high school, small college…doesn't mean small talent. If you can play in this state, there's enough bird-dogs out there to find you." ◆

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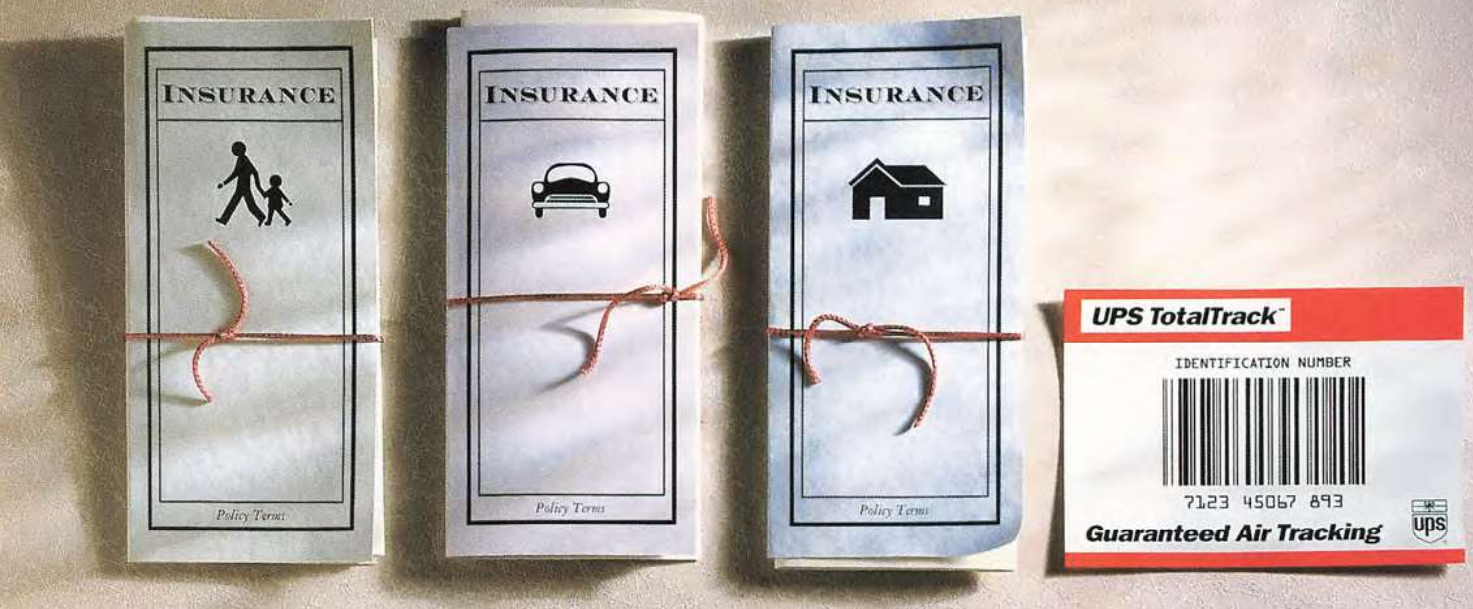

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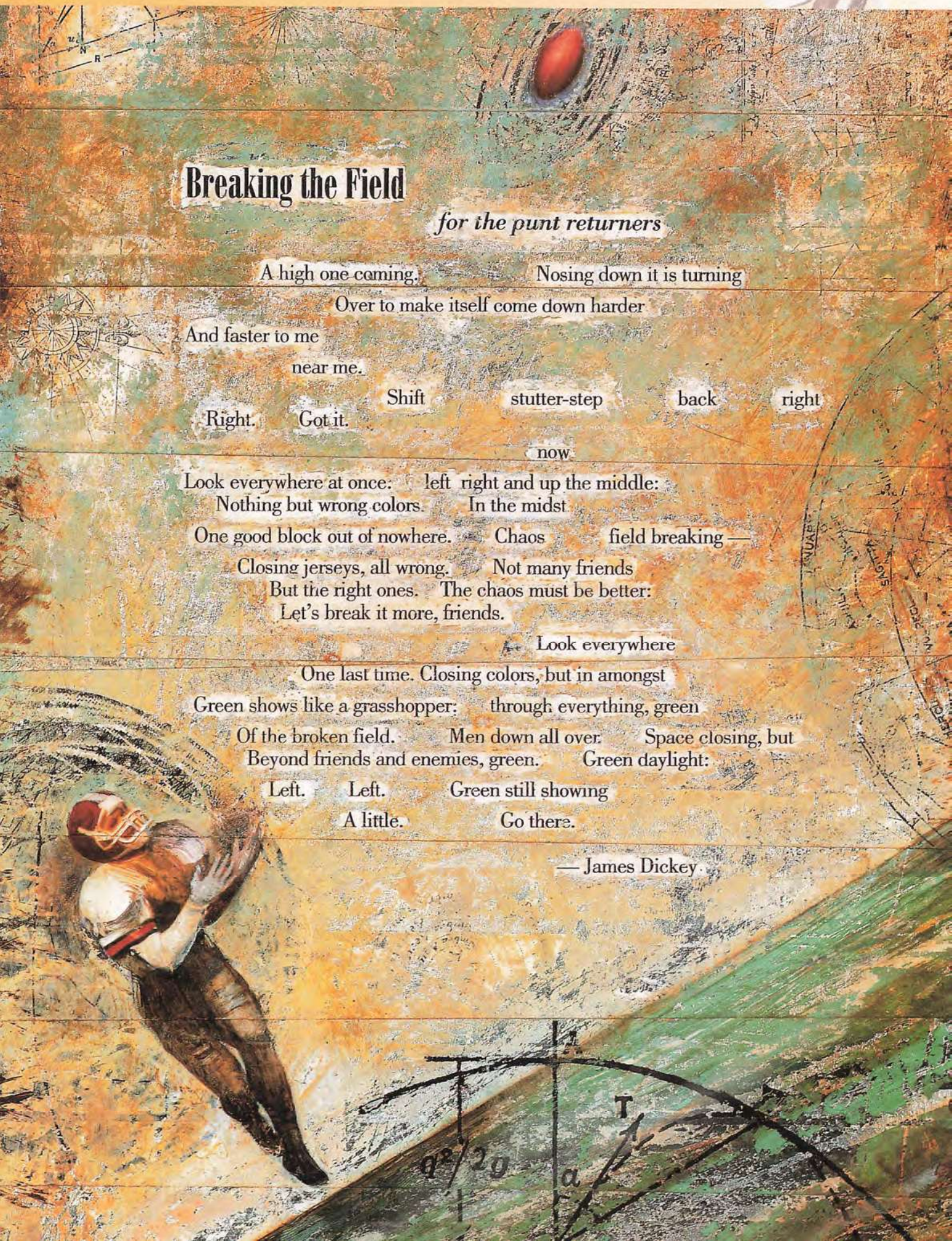

Breaking the Field

for the punt returners

A high one coming. Nosing down it is turning
Over to make itself come down harder
And faster to me
near me.
Shift stutter-step back right
Right. Got it.
now
Look everywhere at once: left right and up the middle:
Nothing but wrong colors. In the midst
One good block out of nowhere. Chaos field breaking —
Closing jerseys, all wrong. Not many friends
But the right ones. The chaos must be better:
Let's break it more, friends.
Look everywhere
One last time. Closing colors, but in amongst
Green shows like a grasshopper: through everything, green
Of the broken field. Men down all over. Space closing, but
Beyond friends and enemies, green. Green daylight:
Left. Left. Green still showing
A little. Go there.

— James Dickey

BEFORE THE FALCONS COULD FLY

BY FURMAN BISHER

Illustrations by Everett Peck

Atlanta's NFL Franchise Has Come a Long Way Since the Humble Days of Black Mountain, North Carolina

Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina in the mor-r-r-ning..."

These were the irritating lyrics that sounded reveille every morning at Blue Ridge Assembly, a YMCA retreat at Black Mountain, North Carolina, where the first crop of Atlanta Falcons was bivouacked in the torrid summer of 1966. And nothing could have been further from the truth.

"Siberia in the Blue Ridge" was more appropriate. That would have been a PG description of the Christian retreat that was transformed into a training camp for the newest National Football League franchise. "Camp Run Amuck" might have fit, too.

Black Mountain, the postmark, was in itself descriptive enough, though it was located in a picturesque area about 15 miles east of Asheville, the lovely city that gave author Thomas Wolfe to the world.

Eighty-eight recycled veterans and 44 rookies reported that July, 27 seasons ago. It was the consensus of the older players who had been around the league that this was the worst training facility in the history of the NFL, dating back to when the league was born in a Hupmobile showroom in Canton, Ohio. It was a lowering of standards to the team's rookies, in general, and to linebacker Tommy Nobis, the celebrated number-one draft choice, in particular.

"I'd come from the University of Texas, where Darrell Royal was used to doing things first-class," Nobis says. "I remember driving up to that place and saying to myself, 'This is the NFL?'

"It was a beautiful setting, but it wasn't meant for football."

The Falcons represented neophyte ownership, a franchise created out of haste to beat the American Football League to Atlanta. A stadium had been constructed just as hastily—a quarter-mile south of the gold-domed state capitol—primarily to accommodate Major League Baseball's Braves, who were divorcing Milwaukee and changing their address to Atlanta. The stadium itself was a miraculous result of expediency, built in one year for $17 million, still one of the best sports bargains in America.

A venue in place and the Braves on the way, Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., wanted a second tenant. He went to Leonard Reinsch, who ran Cox Broadcasting Corporation from Atlanta, and leaned on him with this proposal:

"How about bringing a professional football team to Atlanta? CBS owns the New York Yankees. What's wrong with Cox Broadcasting owning an Atlanta team?"

Being an accommodating soul, civic minded, and a close personal friend of Mayor Allen, Reinsch rolled up his sleeves and went shopping. At one time he was close to making a deal for the Denver Broncos. But when the Phipps family, then the owners of that AFL franchise, finally turned him down, he went to Joe Foss, commissioner of the NFL's young rivals, and applied for

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an expansion team. The price of $7.5 million was staggering, considering the rickety status of the AFL, but Reinsch was game. He put himself and Cox Broadcasting on the line, called Mayor Allen, and told him he had his football team.

Then he called me at the *Atlanta Constitution* to say he wanted the details known because he had to leave for New Zealand, at the time the only place in the world where his wife could get the kind of delicate heart surgery she needed. He left on June 8, 1965.

By the time Reinsch returned home, the NFL had moved in. The AFL had been shot down, and Pete Rozelle had awarded an NFL franchise to Rankin Smith, then 41 years old and relatively unknown outside insurance and social circles, for $8.5 million. It was up to the Stadium Authority to choose the tenant, and this was like the fable of the rabbit and the briar patch. How Mayor Allen explained the turn of events to his friend Reinsch never surfaced, but it must have been a peaceful exchange, because Allen later was appointed to the board of directors of Cox Broadcasting.

"I think I'm in trouble. I've been watching that spider spin that web ever since I've been here," Jobko said. "What's wrong with that?" "I'm beginning to enjoy it."

Even before there was a name, even before there was an office, the franchise moved ahead, leaderless. The first employee was Don Heinrich, a former NFL quarterback who was hired as a scout. The first player signed was Bob Paremore, a free-agent running back who had spent two seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals.

A name was necessary, so a contest was staged. The winner was suggested by Julia Elliot, an elderly high-school teacher in Griffin, Georgia, 40 miles south of Atlanta. She was among several who offered "Falcons," but the selection committee like her letter best.

Next came the draft. Still without a coach, the Falcons plunged in under the guidance of Gene Cronin, the first director of player personnel and more a male model than an executive. The NFL draft was held in November then, to beat the AFL to the punch. The head coach wasn't hired until the following February: Norb Hecker, an assistant on Vince Lombardi's staff at Green Bay. Smith was taking recommendations from Commissioner Rozelle, who had gotten him into this thing. Before Hecker, though, rumors involved Lombardi himself and Paul Brown, who had been defrocked at Cleveland and now was sitting idle on the West Coast. In fact, the *Nashville Banner* reported just before the draft that "Paul Brown will become the general manager and coach of the Atlanta Falcons within two weeks." It was a shot in the dark that went wild, but, it turns out, the story did have a trace of validity.

The drafted roster was in place when Hecker came in, and when he combined his own selections from the expansion pool with what he inherited, it was something like a military conscription. The draft was, for the most part, a bust. Only three of the 25 players chosen ever became regulars: linebacker Tommy Nobis, quarterback Randy Johnson, and cornerback Ken Reaves. (As an expansion team, the Falcons had double choices the first six rounds. Peculiarly enough, both number ones were from San Antonio: Nobis, from the University of Texas, and Johnson, from Texas A&I.)

Before the first week of camp at Black Mountain was completed, four draft choices were gone. Bobby Garvin, an overweight lineman from Mississippi State, was the first player cut. He cut himself after 15 minutes.

It was customary in those days for pro football teams to locate their training camps on an RFD route as far from bright lights as possible, thus eradicating temptation. The Falcons outdid themselves. The only trace of sin could be found in a six-table beer bar named Sewell's, down the mountain from Blue Ridge Assembly.

"They said they looked at four possible sites," says Alex Hawkins, the veteran from Baltimore and Green Bay. "I'd hate to see what the other three were like."

Hawkins was the "mayor" of camp, an impudent alumnus of South Carolina who never had been a reg-

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YOUR LINE UP OF WINNING TASTES

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ular in seven seasons with Green Bay and Baltimore. At Baltimore, he had become the comedic "Captain Who" as leader of the Colts' special teams. Here he was joining a new-born franchise in the city where he lived, with a chance to be a starter, his big break in life. It hardly developed that way, judging by an excerpt from his book, *My Story, and I'm Sticking To It.*

"The Falcons were well on their way to a gloomy destiny from the start," he wrote. "It was the blind leading the blind, as together they stumbled down a dark, dead-end street."

He became so aggrieved during camp that he telephoned Don Shula, his old coach at Baltimore, and begged to be taken back. It might have pleased Hecker if he had. Hawkins was like the brat who goes around tying tin cans to dogs' tails. He was a pox on the life of Hecker. He broke curfew. He stalked off the practice field. He once inserted a whistle in the tailpipe of Hecker's car and the sound drove the coach to distraction before he found out what was causing the shrill sound.

One night, Hawkins clambered down a fire escape and took off into the outside world after curfew. The next day Hecker confronted him during a team meeting and said, "Hawkins, you were out after curfew last night. What do you have to say for yourself?"

"Coach," Hawkins began, "would you believe I was kidnapped?"

The other players roared with laughter. It cost the camp bad boy $50.

"The problem was," Hawkins says, "I'd come there to play football, and he was running a camp for drill sergeants. He was trying to out-Lombardi Lombardi."

It wasn't only Hecker that Hawkins was irritating. He was getting on Tommy Nobis's nerves as well, and this was the star rookie, the freckled hope from Texas.

"I was sitting in the back of the bus," Nobis remembers, "and I heard Hawkins up front saying, 'Nobis, you're too uptight. You gotta loosen up and realize this team ain't gonna win many games this year.'

"It made me so mad I wanted to fight him. I'd have beaten him to a pulp, but it never came to that. I'd never played on a losing team in my life, but I'll tell you, that stuck in my craw all season."

Bill Jobko, later to become a scout, was a linebacker from Ohio State playing his last season. He called Hawkins into his room at Blue Ridge one day, and said, "Alex, you see that?" pointing to a spider web on the wall.

"Yeah, what about it?"

"I think I'm in trouble. I've been watching that spider spin that web ever since I got here," Jobko said.

"What's wrong with that?"

"I'm beginning to enjoy it."

There was no football field at Black Mountain, so they bulldozed one out of the side of a hill. Scrimmaging was like rolling around on a rock pile. The dormitories at Blue Ridge were like barracks, old and wooden. There was no air conditioning. The food had the quality of prison grub. ("We even thought about going on strike," Nobis says.) Camp opened on July 2 and ran into September, by which time the summer Assembly staff pulled out, leaving only a few volunteers.

"Can you cook?" Hawkins asked one of the college lads who was left with kitchen duty.

"Yeah, if you like canned soup."

The place also happened to be rat infested. A leading pastime was setting mousetraps to see who could catch the most rodents. Each morning players would show up with their victims to see who had the catch of the night. A trophy was awarded at the end of camp.

Each morning players would show up with their victims to see who had the catch of the night. A trophy was awarded at the end of camp.

There were some highlights. Billy Graham, who lived at Lake Junaluska, just a few miles away, dropped in a few times. The evangelist's visits became such an occasion he was made an honorary Falcon. (His career was left unmarked by the association.)

Hecker himself confirms these stories about Stalag Blue Ridge from Palm Desert, California, where he has settled in semi-retirement. "It's the kind of experience you can laugh about now, but it wasn't so funny then," he says.

He had been hired over the telephone by Rankin Smith, without any discussion of contract or terms. "I was ready, or I thought I was," Hecker says. "Coach Lombardi said I wasn't. I think he was being a little selfish and didn't want to replace me. But I don't regret it. I'd do it over again."

Hecker was operating under a general manager who had been an accountant. Frank Wall had no sports experience. His background was in insurance at Life of Georgia, where he worked for Rankin Smith. There is a story that during an early player draft, one of the Smith children was allowed to make a choice. He chose John Wayne, so the rumor goes.

The first season got away to such a Three Stooges

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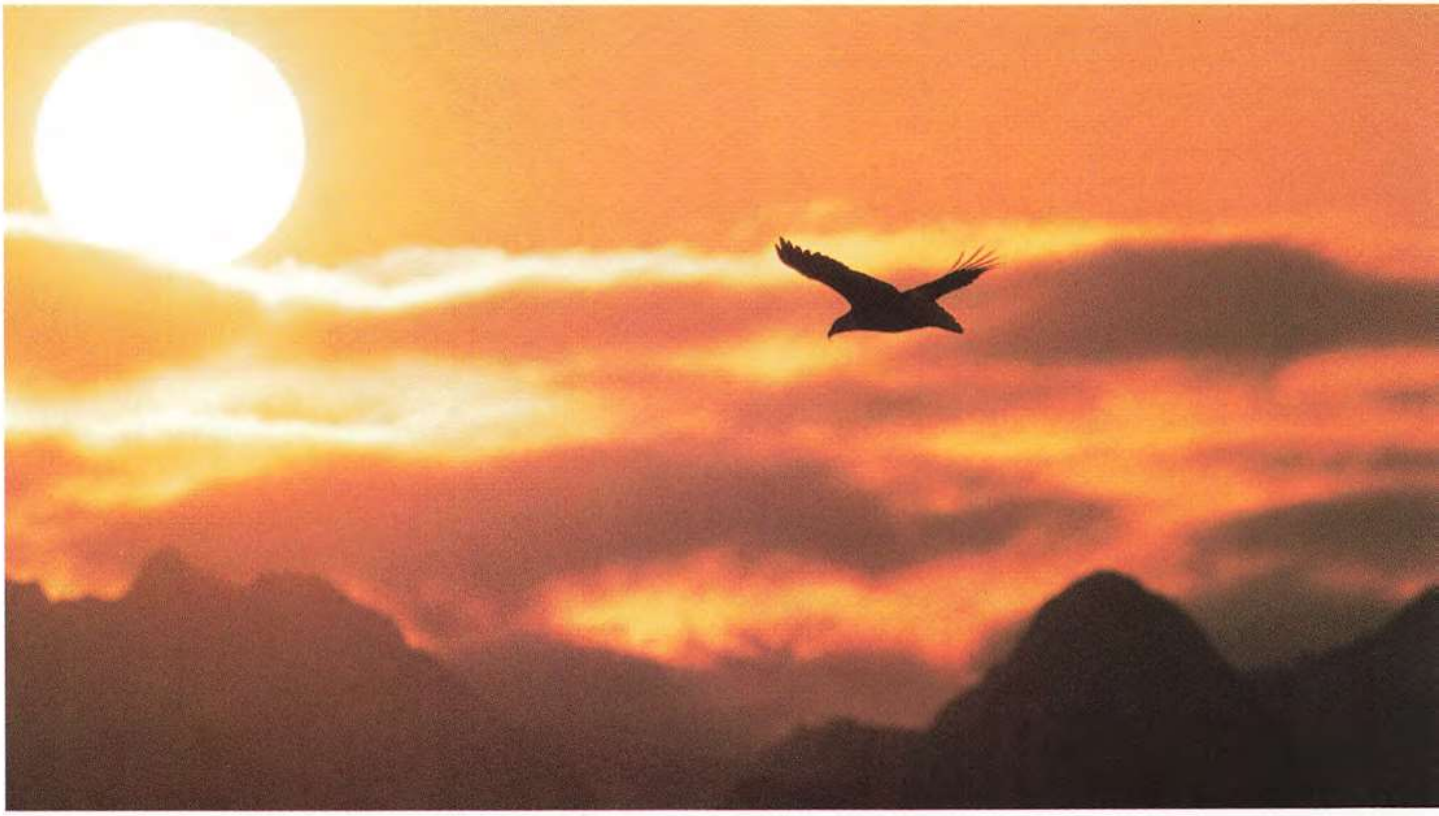

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start you didn't know whether to laugh or cry. On the very first Falcons kickoff—in preseason against the Philadelphia Eagles—the kicker, Wade Traynham, from a small college in Virginia, almost whiffed the ball. It rolled along like an onside kick, the Falcons recovered, and the fans cheered. What an innovative play, they thought, an onside kick to introduce the new football team to Atlanta. As it turned out, Traynham missed the ball so badly he pulled a hamstring. His kicking duties had to be turned over to Lou Kirouac, an old pro from Baltimore. To this day the Atlanta Falcons are the only NFL team ever to open for business with an onside kickoff.

Now the regular season was opening in Atlanta. The Falcons had adopted a mascot, a real live falcon in the care of a professional trainer. Before the first game against the Los Angeles Rams, the falconer ceremoniously released the bird, which was supposed to circle the stadium three times, then fly back to his perch on the falconer's arm. The falcon circled twice, changed course, flew off into the wild blue, and never was seen again.

For openers, the game wasn't bad. The Rams won, but only 19-14, George Allen matched against young Norb Hecker. Allen charged that a player he had released, Bob Jencks, had signed with the Falcons and given them all the Rams' secrets. If so, the Falcons hardly showed their appreciation. They also released him.

What Hecker had to work with was mainly a collection of journeymen playing out the string. "Picking up one more paycheck," he says. There were some faded stars, among them local resident Larry Morris, come home from the Chicago Bears; Ed Cook; Karl Rubke; Red Mack; Dan Grimm; Sam Williams; Bob Whitlow; and, of course, Hawkins, who had the best season of his career. He caught 44 passes, including 9 in one game, a Falcons' record that stood nearly 10 seasons.

Before the first game, the falconer ceremoniously released the bird. The falcon circled twice, changed course, flew off into the wild blue, and never was seen again.

"Once the game started, Hawkins gave you everything he had," Hecker says, "big a clown as he could be off the field."

The amazing thing was that even with that assemblage of retreads, has-beens, and guys picked up on street corners, the yearling Falcons won three of their last five games. Of course, that was all they won, but the fact that they won three games was as unbelievable as if Stone Mountain had turned to dust. When they logged their first victory, after beginning with nine straight losses—they beat the Giants in New York, though the once-mighty Giants were on their way to a season even worse than the Falcons'—it had the taste of fine wine.

A little guy showed up selling neckties and asking for a kicking audition. His agent was his brother...and the price was out of sight. The necktie salesman was Garo Yepremian.

"It was my biggest thrill, beating the Giants for my first victory," Hecker says. "We beat Minnesota and St. Louis after that."

If the 1966 draft was a dud, the 1967 draft was a real bomb. The first-round choice had been traded to San Francisco for three players. One gave up football for painting and acting, one turned to professional wrestling, and the third was a veteran lineman worn down to the rim. The Falcons selected 16 players in the draft and not one of the 16 ever played a down in Atlanta.

One draftee pulled out during training camp, leaving behind only his Tiny Tim albums. Another was a shotputter who had the Olympic Games on his mind. Another, Sandor Szabo, had a wrestler's name but neither wrestled nor kicked, which is what he was drafted for. Such unscientific drafting, three starters in two years, left the Falcons with a cupboard as bare as Mother Hubbard's.

Alex Hawkins tells about a rookie at Black Mountain who had been drafted from Florida after a rather glamorous career catching passes from Heisman Trophy winner Steve Spurrier.

"Every time I went into the exercise room, he was in there riding a stationary bike," Hawkins says. "He wouldn't go to practice. Just kept riding that bike. He had signed for a hundred-thousand-dollar bonus and he couldn't collect it if he quit. He was just waiting for them to release him, collect his hundred grand, and walk away. It worked."

One summer at Black Mountain was enough. Any thought of returning would have set off a rebellion. So despised was the place that two players burned the bridge behind them—literally. They set fire to the wooden bridge on the road that led up to the Blue Ridge Assembly. The next season, the Falcons set up camp at East Tennessee State in Johnson City. The improvement was like moving from a refrigerator box under a viaduct to the Ritz-Carlton. Four years later, they moved to Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, until they set up a permanent camp at Suwanee, Georgia, 25 miles north of Atlanta, which is now their full-time base of operations.

It was at Johnson City that a little guy with only a wisp of hair showed up selling neckties and asking for a placekicking audition. He could kick the ball out of sight, but there was one serious complication. He had an agent before there were agents, and his agent was his brother...and the asking price also was out of sight. The Falcons passed.

The little necktie salesman was Garo Yepremian, who later became a star with the Miami Dolphins.

If Rankin Smith wondered what he had paid $8.5 million for after the first season, the worst was just around the corner. The 1967 team actually took a step backward. One consolation: It would be the worst season he'd ever have to wallow through. The Falcons actually got out of the gate with some promise. They nearly caught the Colts down the stretch in Baltimore, losing the first game by a mere touchdown.

The floodgates opened after that. Only three other opponents scored as few as 20 points against them. One of those foes they tied, another they beat. The one victim was Minnesota, which was making the conversion from Norm Van Brocklin to Bud Grant. Everything else was pure agony—with one exception. Amazing as it may seem, Tommy Nobis made all-pro on a team that won only one game.

That brings to mind a letter published in *Playboy* magazine, after the publication had run a story glorifying Dick Butkus. The letter read:

"I have just read your article on Dick Butkus on a plane. When you get around to writing a story on the best linebacker in the NFL, may I suggest Tommy Nobis of Atlanta."

The letter was signed by Ken Willard, fullback for the San Francisco 49ers.

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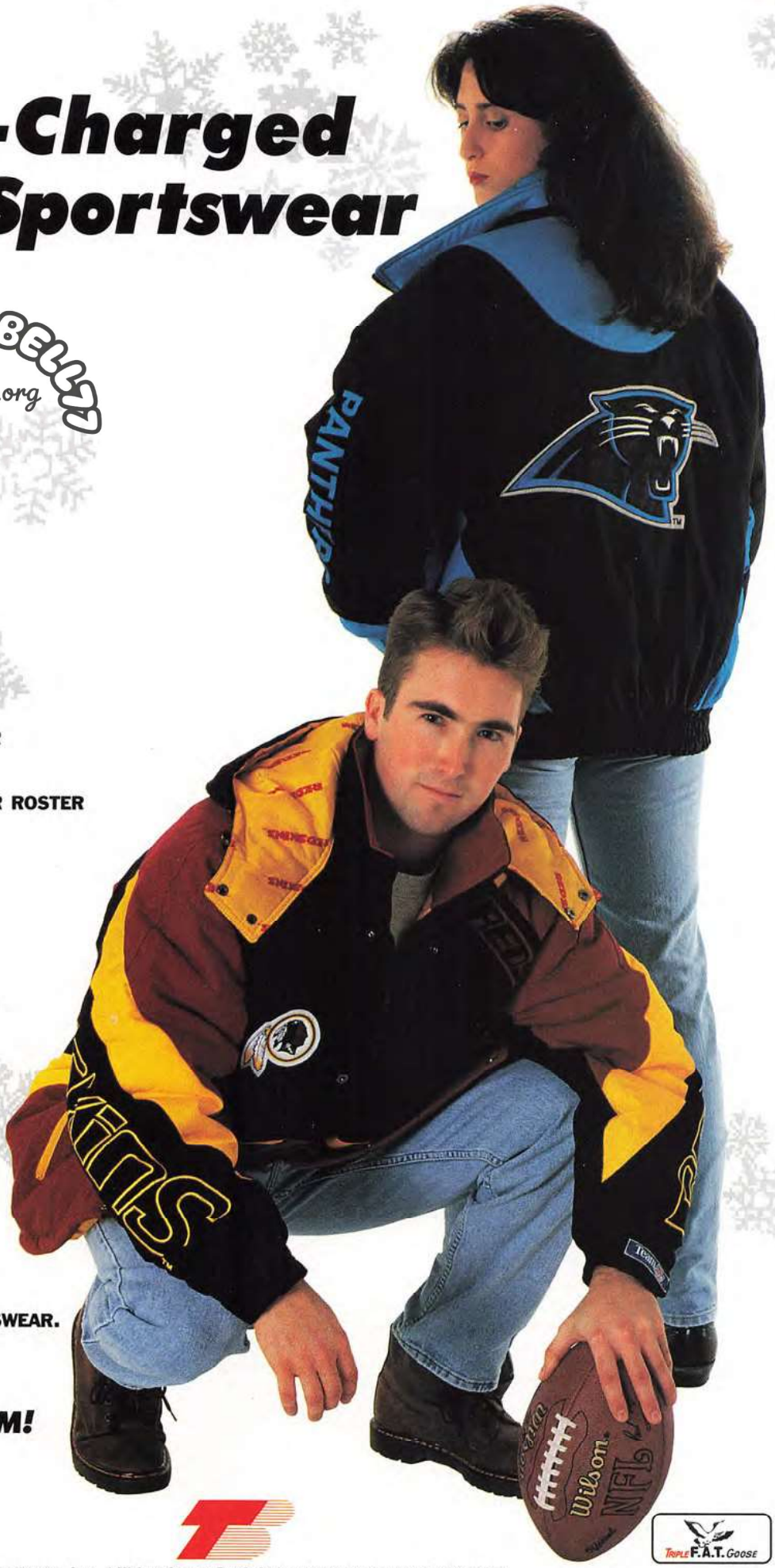

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Rankin Smith: "I remember saying when I got the franchise that it ought to be the ambition of every red-blooded American boy to own a pro football team. My mind hasn't changed."

It wasn't easy for Nobis to adjust to his new life of affluence and high profile. He came to Atlanta carrying a heavy load: All-America, $225,000 bonus in the bank, a five-year contract, and no cares or woes. He had his share of fracases around town, and he raised the hackles on the necks of a few cops. He had grown up the son of a truck driver, and adjusting to this new celebrity was like trying to fit into a tuxedo that was too tight.

"I'd just didn't know how to act," Nobis says today. His marriage and the arrival of a family eventually worked as a settling influence. He became a good citizen and now serves the Falcons as director of player development.

The 1968 season began with three more losses, which stretched the losing streak to 10. On the plane ride back from a defeat in San Francisco, Rankin Smith came to his first major crisis as an owner. He decided he had to change coaches.

"None of this would have happened if my first plan had worked out," he would say. "I actually had a commitment from Vince Lombardi, and I had talked with Paul Brown. Then Lombardi changed his mind. I didn't feel like going back to Brown, the second choice and him knowing it. Lombardi had mentioned Norb Hecker, and that interested me, though he later said he didn't think Hecker was ready. Now, here we were in the third season, and I knew I was ready to change coaches."

Van Brockin was his man, a year removed from Minnesota and eager to get back into in the league. The volatile Dutchman was greeted by a newspaper headline that read: "Hitler With a Hangover." He never was known for his sense of humor, but he laughed his way through it, and when the Falcons beat the Giants in his second game, great jubilation prevailed.

It wasn't always easy to tell who was boss and who was the hired hand during Van Brocklin's tenure, but the atmosphere improved. The Falcons gradually learned how to win, and the stadium became a joyful place to be on a Sunday afternoon. Rankin Smith began to enjoy the fruits of ownership at last.

"I remember saying when I got the franchise that it ought to be the ambition of every red-blooded American boy to want to own a pro football team," Smith says. "My mind hasn't changed, though a lot of other things about the game have. We made a lot of mistakes during the early years. We were new and feeling our way. We had an in-house struggle about the second draft and wound up trading away our first choice to San Francisco for three stiffs.

"I was having lunch with Lou Spadia of the 49ers a little later, and he was telling how wily old George Halas used to work over Art Rooney until he'd traded away some of his stiffs for Art's draft choices. I listened patiently, then said to Lou, 'Isn't that what you've just done to me?'"

Why should a rich man with everything in place in his life want to take a running leap into an unknown world such as the NFL?

"There were several reasons," Smith says. "I'd always been a fan, for one. Then I was impressed by Pete Rozelle—the class of the man, his smoothness, and his credibility. That had a lot to do with my decision. And I wanted to do something for my community. Whatever people may think, I'm very concerned about the way of life in Atlanta.

"I'll never forget the first owners' meeting I attended. It was about the time [the Giants'] Jack Mara had died. There was a memorial for him, and it happened that I stood by Wellington, his brother. It may not sound like much, but it was a moving moment for me. I began to feel a camaraderie, like the member of a club. From then on, I have never wavered about my interest in the National Football League."

When Smith first became involved as a bidder for the franchise, he had a price of $4 million in his mind. He gulped when the price doubled, but he met it. The projection now is that the Falcons, enhanced by their lovely new nest in the Georgia Dome, would bring $120 million on the open market.

But no price can match the kind of civic exhilaration that Rankin Smith feels as he watches his city host Super Bowl XXVIII. ◆

EXPANDING STORY

Your new Carolina Panthers cap and Jacksonville Jaguars jacket look great as an ensemble, but don't get your hopes soaring too high for the franchises' first NFL seasons. Other NFL clubs have gone through varying degrees of growing pains before asserting themselves as contenders. On the bright side, some of the most successful teams of the last three decades got their starts as expansionists. The word to remember is patience.

Team	First Year (and Record)...			
	In Existence	Above .500	In Playoffs	In Super Bowl
Dallas	1960 (0-11-1)	1966 (10-3-1)	1966 (10-4-1)	1970 (12-5)
Minnesota	1961 (3-11)	1964 (8-5-1)	1968 (8-7)	1969 (14-3)
Atlanta	1966 (3-11)	1971 (7-6-1)	1978 (9-7)	—
Miami	1966 (3-11)	1970 (10-4)	1970 (10-5)	1971 (12-4-1)
New Orleans	1967 (3-11)	1987 (12-3)	1987 (12-4)	—
Cincinnati	1968 (3-11)	1970 (8-6)	1970 (8-7)	1981 (14-5)
Seattle	1976 (2-12)	1978 (9-7)	1983 (11-8)	—
Tampa Bay	1976 (0-14)	1979 (10-6)	1979 (11-7)	—

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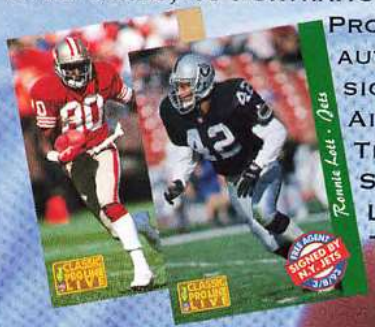

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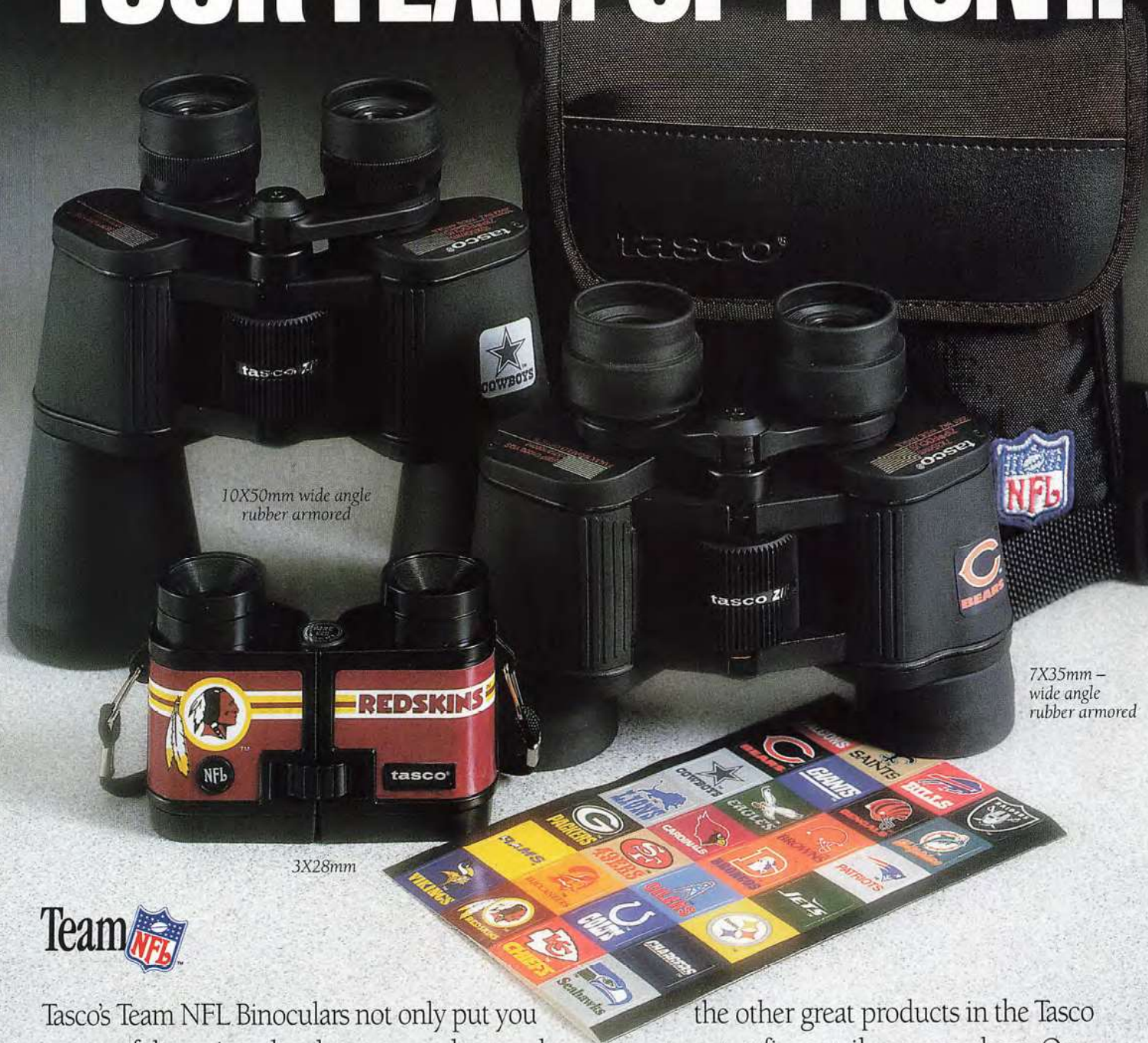

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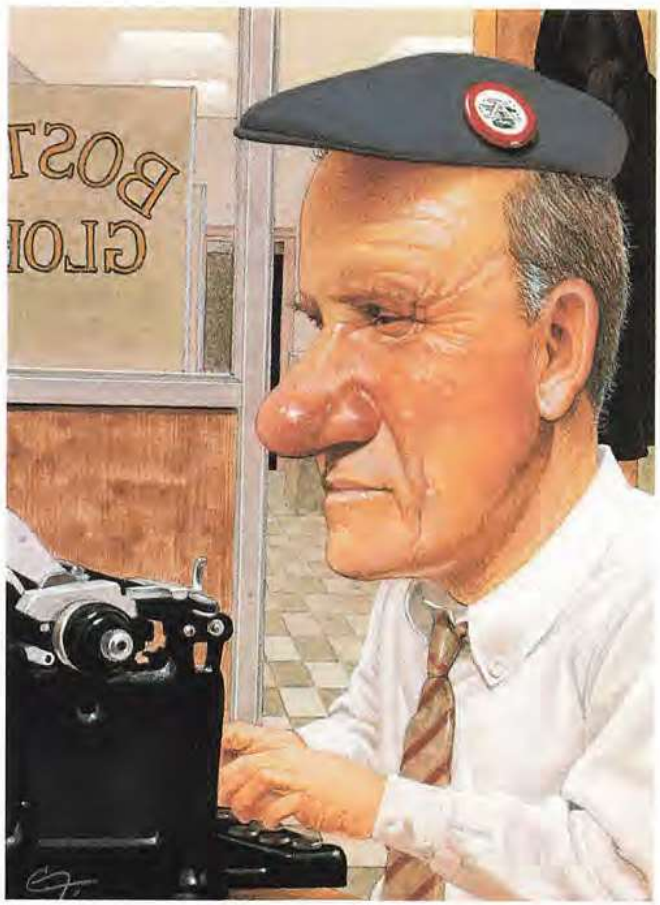
GATE-CRASHERS AND FROG'S LEGS

BY WILL MCDONOUGH



The assignment was to cover the Kansas City Chiefs as they prepared to play the Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl I. Get out there a few days early, my boss at the *Boston Globe* told me, and stay at the same hotel as the Chiefs. Unheard of today, a reporter rooming at the same place as a Super Bowl team. But that's how it was in 1967.

I drove from the Los Angeles airport to Long Beach. It was dark, it was raining, and fog engulfed the hotel. The scene was like something out of the movies. It was a fitting introduction to this event, because the whole idea of the game was shrouded in mystery. One opinion seemed universal, however—the contest figured to be a mismatch.

Now, while sometimes things are what they appear (Super Bowl I *was* a mismatch, with Green Bay dominating), there are times when even the most vivid imagination cannot see what lies ahead.

Hard feelings ran deep in those days. NFL players and even the writers who covered them seemed indignant at the mere thought of having to play an AFL team. Len Dawson, the great Kansas City quarterback, was sitting at a coffee shop one morning when a writer from Cleveland approached. "Lenny," said the NFL writer, "I'd like to talk to you for a few minutes." Dawson, who had played with the Browns, shook his head. "Why? You never talked to me the years I was in Cleveland."

Access to players never was a problem then. That's a far cry from today, when you almost need an act of Congress to get an interview, then have to battle MTV reporters to ask a question.

A few days before the first Super Bowl, I drove up to Santa Barbara, where the Packers were staying. I asked to see quarterback Bart Starr. Next thing I knew, Starr appeared in the hotel lobby and told me to come to his room.

Interview a player in his hotel room before the Super Bowl? Not a chance of doing that today.

I felt bad for the Chiefs that Sunday. My heart was with them, as were the hearts of most of the AFL writers. It was a personal thing with us. The late Tex Maule of *Sports Illustrated* basked in the spotlight. He was an NFL guy, and he told anyone who would listen that Green Bay would dominate.

He was right. The AFL writers had to bite their tongues.

The bashing continued in the locker room. Legendary Vince Lombardi was asked about the Chiefs. "Well," said the Packers head coach, "they can't play with the good teams in our league. They couldn't play with the Lions or Bears [Green Bay's chief rivals in the NFL Western Conference]."

After filing my story, I went back to the hotel and sat around a small press room with Kansas City head coach Hank Stram and a few AFL writers. Stram, told of Lombardi's comments, was devastated. He talked about the game, but every couple of minutes he'd say, "Did Vince *really* say we weren't that good? That we couldn't play at that level? Vince is a friend. Did he *really* say that?"

That summer, returning to the *Boston Globe* after a Red Sox game, I passed the wire machine and saw that Kansas City had defeated Chicago 66-24 in a preseason game. I said to myself: "I'm sure that was for you, Vince."

But even Lombardi came around. The day before Super Bowl III in January, 1969, I was with Jimmy Cannon, the late and very great New York columnist and a friend of Lombardi's. "Kid," Cannon told me, "I think they [the Jets] have a shot."

I laughed. Hell, the Jets were 19-point underdogs. It was just a hopeful New Yorker talking, I thought. "No, I was talking to Vince," Cannon said, "and he thinks this kid [Joe Namath] can beat them. They're better than they used to be."

In more than 30 years of sportswriting, that game remains my biggest thrill. Namath was masterful, but I'll always remember hearing of coach Weeb Ewbank's pregame speech. "*When* we win," he told his players, "don't carry me off the field. I have a bad hip. I don't want to get hurt."

His players thought it was a ploy to show how confident he was.

C.F. Payne

But Ewbank was serious. In the AFL Championship Game two weeks earlier, he was carried off the field and a fan had pulled so hard on his leg that he required hip surgery later that year.

If Super Bowl III was vindication for the AFL, it also was sweet justice for the writers from the junior league. Maule got an earful from us. *The tables had turned.*

Respect grew the next year when Stram, Dawson, and the Chiefs beat the NFL's mighty Vikings at Tulane Stadium. It was the most bizarre Super Bowl week ever. It was abnormally cold in New Orleans, the Mississippi River was frozen, rumors circulated that Dawson was involved in gambling, and nobody seemed convinced that the Jets' victory the year before was real. I truly believed the Chiefs would win, but they were huge underdogs.

This was the game in which a hot-air balloon crashed into the stands during halftime. Fortunately, many of the fans were huddling under the stands to escape the cold, so no one was badly hurt.

Which is more than I could say for myself. Sick with the flu, I decided to eat something solid for the first time in days. I opened my box lunch, had a few bites, turned to a Cleveland writer, Chuck Heaton, and told him the chicken was pretty good. "That's not chicken," he said, "it's frog's legs." I think I could have outrun Otis Taylor in my sprint to the men's room.

I stood near the Giants bench and got smacked a few times by a woman wielding a baton.

Super Bowl history books tell us all about the great plays and the players who pulled them off. My favorite Super Bowl memories are drawn not from people who performed between the goal posts, but from those who added flavor and human qualities.

People such as Skipper McNally. Skipper was a character, a guy from the Boston area who'd had bit parts in some good movies such as *Charly* and *On the Waterfront*. Skipper was a gate-crasher; he loved the spotlight, and what brighter spotlight than America's premier sporting event? In New Orleans for Super Bowl IV, he devised a scheme. When the team bus approached Tulane Stadium, Skipper put on his Vikings windbreaker and yelled out: "Team's here. Clear the way. Team's here." He ran beside the bus as it went through the gates and past security.

When it became apparent the Chiefs would win, Skipper changed gears. He put on a Kansas City windbreaker and moved to the other sideline. His goal was to help carry off the winning coach, to get his picture in *Sports Illustrated*. So as time ran out, there was 5-foot-9 Skipper McNally next to 6-foot-9 Ernie Ladd, the former Chief who was cheering on his ex-mates.

"Grab the coach," said Ladd. Skipper obliged. He made his *SI* photo and also the NFL highlight reels because NFL Films had wired Stram. On the film, you can hear Stram calling out: "Where's Grant [Vikings head coach Bud Grant], where's Grant?"

Skipper was tired and sore, in no mood to carry Stram any longer. "Coach," you can hear him say on the tape, "*bleep* Grant. Let's get out of here."

In 1977, a great guy who had suffered terrible disappointments on the football field, Raiders head coach John Madden, got to taste Super Bowl success. That day in Los Angeles didn't start well for Madden. A bundle of nerves, he was in such a rush to head to the Rose Bowl that he left four players at the hotel.

He fined himself for making them late. Later, after a 32-14 rout of the Vikings, Madden celebrated by shaking hands with folks in the parking lot, then retiring to a trailer with his boyhood friend, USC coach John Robinson. Madden still is the same unpretentious man today.

At Super Bowl XVI, San Francisco head coach Bill Walsh got to Detroit earlier than his team. He had gone somewhere to pick up an award, so he decided to meet the players when they arrived at the hotel in Detroit. Dressed in a bellhop's uniform, Walsh greeted the 49ers and kidded with them, telling them they were going to get their butts kicked. Several players absorbed the abuse before Walsh was recognized.

When Super Bowl XXI came to Los Angeles, I was doing some television work for CBS, and it was a new experience. It's a major production, but much of it is done on the fly. My pregame interview from the field was going to be with Denver owner Pat Bowlen, but at the last second my producer nixed the idea. "Do something else," he said.

So we opted for a quick piece on stadium security. I positioned myself near the Giants bench and immediately got smacked a few times by a woman with a baton. I was standing where the band needed to line up, she yelled.

Stay there, said my producer, even if it meant getting hit. Which it did. The security piece included something about gate-crashers (I would have loved to tell the story of Skipper) and a skydiver who had warned that he was going to parachute in during the National Anthem. He never did. Who knows, maybe he decided to wait for a heavyweight championship fight seven years later.

Later, we headed to the loser's locker room for interviews. An NFL official was furious because we got there before the Broncos, so he made us hide in the showers. That's where we were when coach Dan Reeves talked to his players.

Moving toward the locker room just before halftime that day, I went past a group of people who were getting ready to entertain. A man dressed as a clown tapped me on the shoulder. "Hey, pal, I haven't been out there yet, who's winning the game?" I told him it was close, but the Giants were starting to play well. "Whew, good," he said. "I have a bet on the Giants." It was Mickey Rooney.

I've known Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson since the old AFL days. His team lost to the Giants in Super Bowl XXV, remembered forever as the game in which Scott Norwood's 47-yard field goal attempt in the final seconds was wide right.

Two years later, Wilson invited me to the Kentucky Derby. He had a financial interest in the favorite, Arazi. I glanced at the *Racing Form* as we drove to Churchill Downs. "Ralph," I asked, "what number did Scott Norwood wear?" He thought for a moment and said, "Eleven." I showed him the *Racing Form* and pointed to horse number 11, Arazi.

The program said Arazi liked to run wide right. We laughed at the irony.

I don't know much about racing, so I tried to follow Arazi. I knew his jockey wore a red cap. Toward the stretch the horses bunched and I focused on the finish line. I thought I saw a jockey with a red cap finish first. I thought Arazi had won.

Wilson pulled back from his binoculars. He didn't say a word. He simply made a sweeping motion with his hands: wide right. I told Wilson I thought Arazi had won. (He hadn't.)

"Will, the day of the Super Bowl," Wilson said, "when Norwood kicked that ball, when the ball was in the air, I was up in the box. I jumped off the ground and said, 'We won!' But then it went wide right. So I won the Super Bowl for three seconds."

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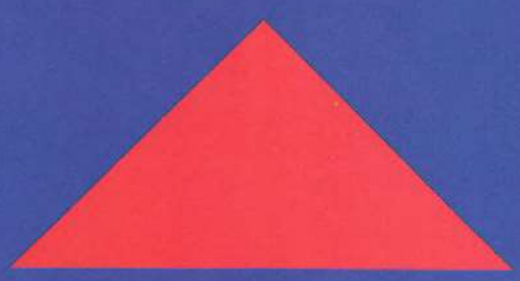

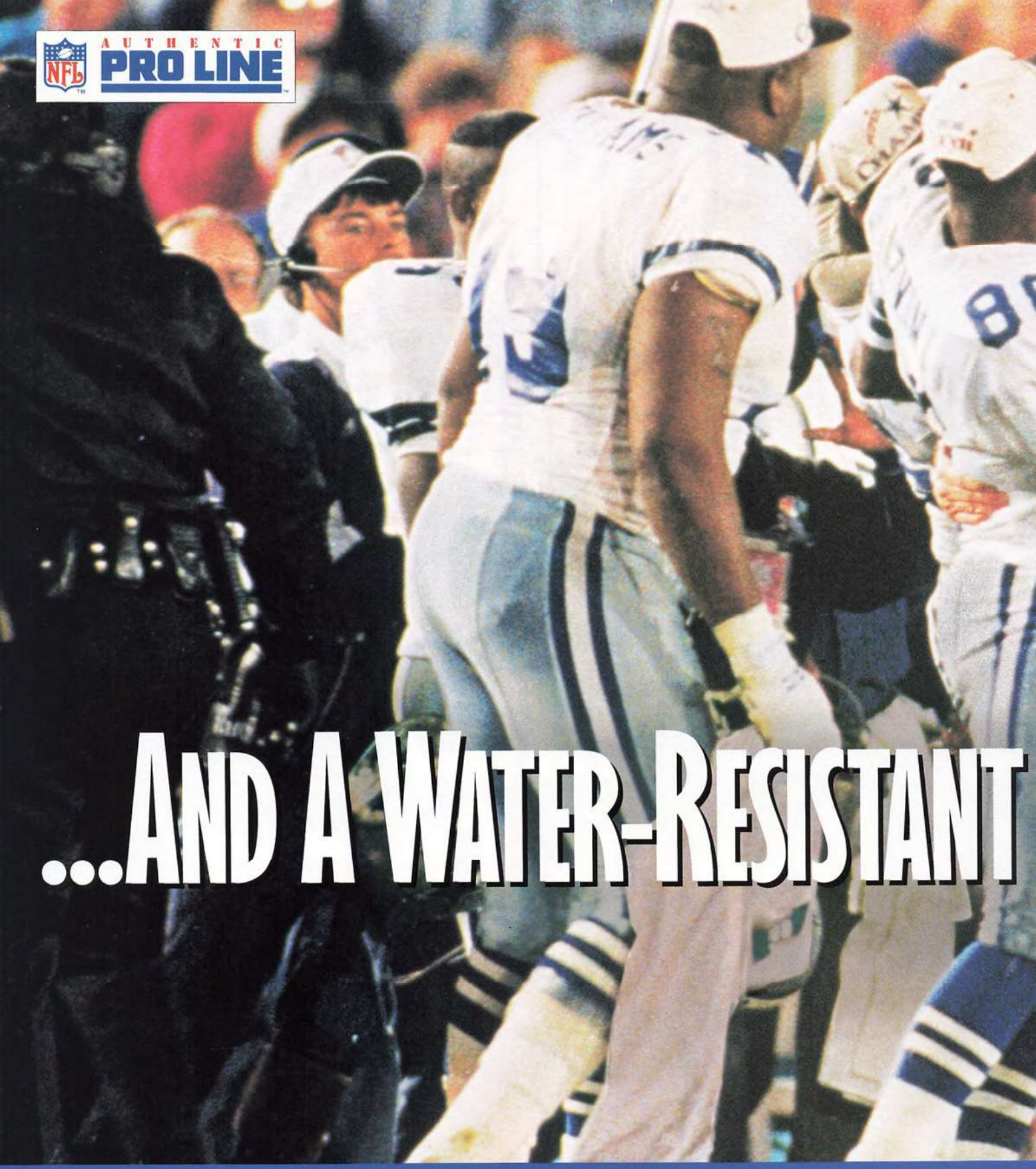
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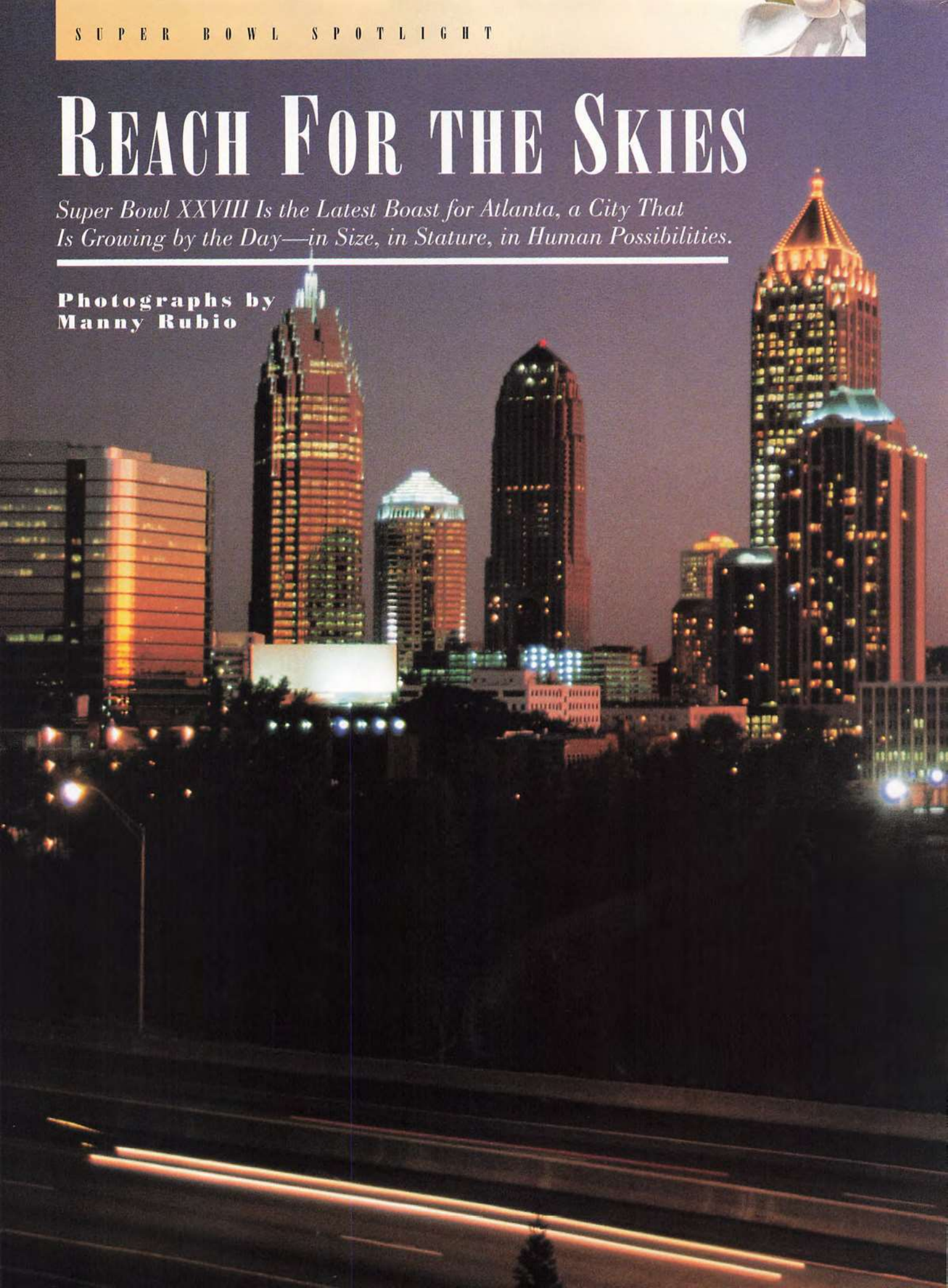
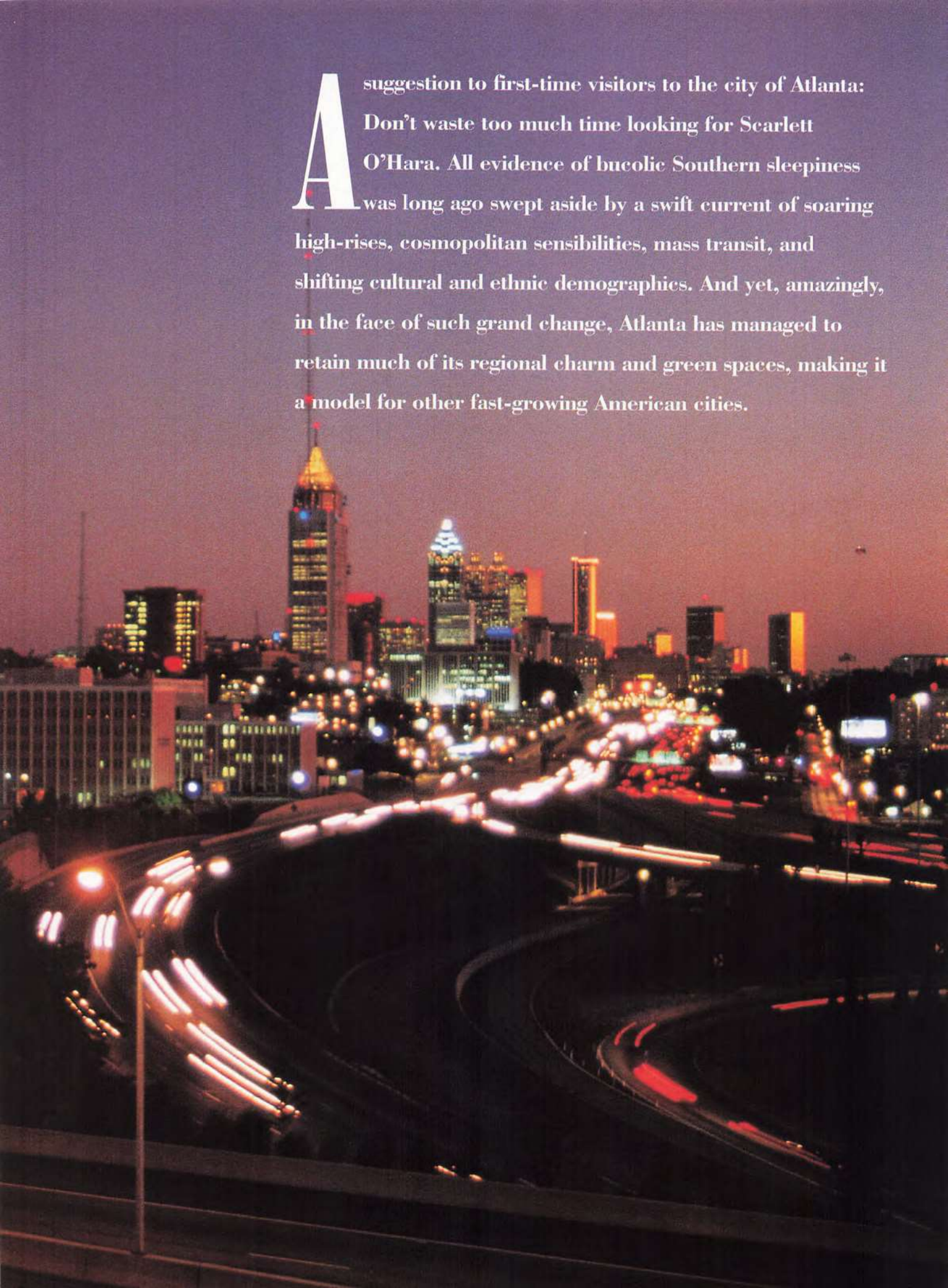
Photographs by Manny Rubio



A suggestion to first-time visitors to the city of Atlanta: Don't waste too much time looking for Scarlett O'Hara. All evidence of bucolic Southern sleepiness was long ago swept aside by a swift current of soaring high-rises, cosmopolitan sensibilities, mass transit, and shifting cultural and ethnic demographics. And yet, amazingly, in the face of such grand change, Atlanta has managed to retain much of its regional charm and green spaces, making it a model for other fast-growing American cities.



Points of Light

Atlanta's skyline has an integrated look, dominated by a proliferation of spires. At least a dozen midtown and downtown buildings sport Gothic-style spires, including the IBM Tower (left, both pages) and the Occidental Grand Hotel (right), shown during the workday and dressed up for the evening.

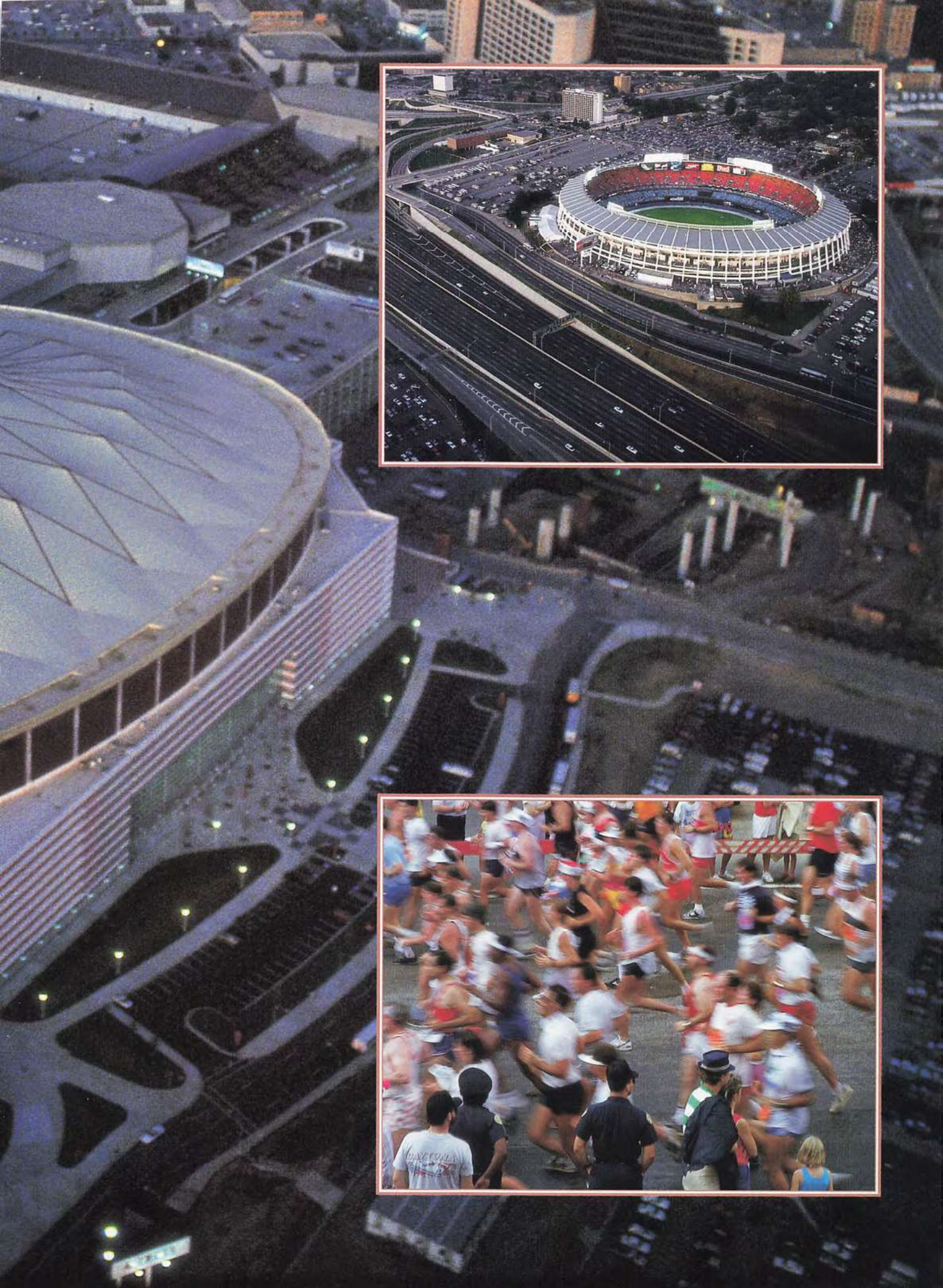
The Answer to Glass and Steel

Atlanta has more woodland within its city limits than any other metropolis in the nation. The Chattahoochee River (overview, looking south toward Atlanta) skirts the west side of the city on its 524-mile course to the Gulf of Mexico. The river gets heavy use from swimmers, fishermen, sweethearts, and, especially, sports enthusiasts such as members of the Atlanta Rowing Club (inset).

Reach For the Skies

Grand Ballrooms

On September 6, 1992, the Falcons began a new era in Atlanta sports history. That marked the first regular-season game in the 71,594-seat Georgia Dome (foreground), site of Super Bowl XXVIII. Football, we must admit, is not the only game in town. Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium (opposite, top) still hosts games for Major League Baseball's Braves, and the Peachtree Road Race (bottom) draws thousands of participants. Behind the Georgia Dome is the Georgia World Congress Center, the nation's second-largest convention and event site with 950,000 square feet of prime exhibit space.



Signs of Life

Atlanta has been called the entertainment capital of the South, and it doesn't matter if you prefer your fun indoors or out. Local attractions include the Six Flags amusement park, a vibrant club scene, and a growing number of street performers in Atlanta Underground (insets). And then there is the World of Coca-Cola, a uniquely massive tribute to America's ubiquitous liquid treat.

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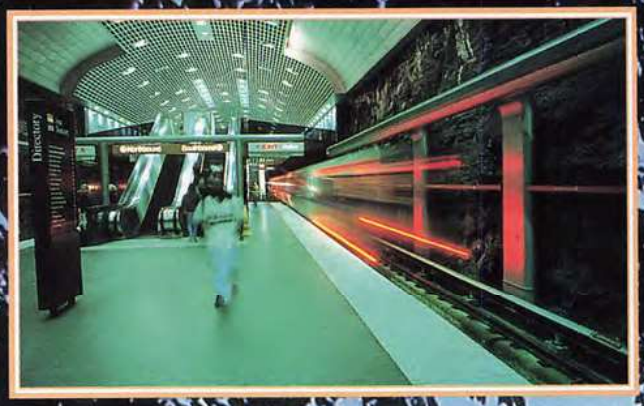

Reach For the Skies

The More Things Change...

The MARTA subway system (inset) is one symbol of a modern, dynamic Atlanta. It must share space, however, with older treasures such as the art deco Fox Theater, a 4,500-seat auditorium originally built as a Shriner's temple but opened as a movie palace on Christmas Day, 1929. These days it hosts concert and theater events.

Joe Namath and "Mean" Joe Greene

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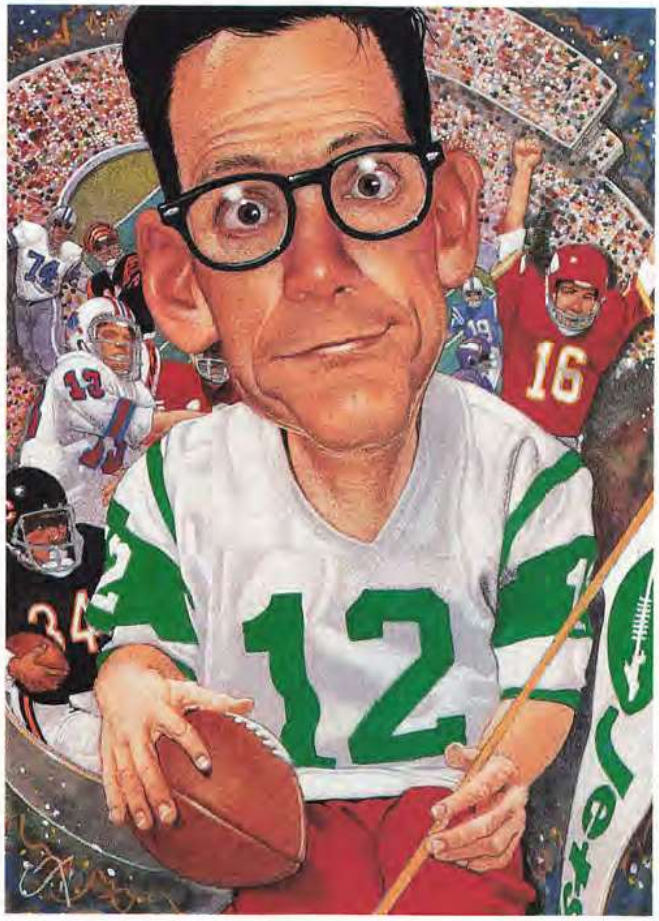
20-20 REVISION

BY PHIL BARBER



Super Bowl III wasn't a football game so much as a 60-minute metaphor for a changing society. Twenty-five years ago, flamboyance and irreverence outdistanced the status quo. Rock 'n' roll beat Andy Williams 16-7 on the field of the Orange Bowl in Miami.

What we often overlook about the Jets' unforgettable upset victory over Baltimore is this: If just a few plays had transpired differently, it could have been the Colts displaying gracious winners' smiles in the locker room afterwards.

History's unfolding is neither predictable nor neat. Every occurrence is a stone, every human decision a log that diverts the stream of time onto other stones and logs settling downhill. Take away one sizable rock and you've got a different stream.

If Baltimore had escaped defeat a quarter century ago, who knows how the NFL—or even the world—might be different today? Perhaps, through some imponderable current of cause and effect, ESPN2 wouldn't exist or the AMC Gremlin would have been Car of the Year in 1975. Perhaps Barney would be named Pierre.

Let's start at the beginning:

January 9, 1969: Jets quarterback Joe Namath, appearing at a dinner hosted by the Miami Touchdown Club, stirs up the sporting press by guaranteeing a victory for his team on Sunday.

January 11, 1969: The Colts, entering Super Bowl III with a record of 15-1, are listed as 19-point favorites on the eve of the game.

January 12, 1969: The Jets, generating an efficient game plan and capitalizing on Baltimore mistakes, take a 7-0 lead on Matt Snell's 4-yard run in the second quarter.

With half a minute left in the first half, Baltimore quarterback Earl Morrall pitches out to halfback Tom Matte, who runs to his right, stops, and pitches back to Morrall. The quarterback hesitates and is about to throw to tightly covered fullback Jerry Hill when he spots wide receiver Jimmy Orr frantically waving his arms behind the Jets' secondary. Morrall lofts a touchdown pass to the wide-open Orr, and the score stands 7-7 at halftime.

Baltimore's defense stiffens in the second half. New York's defensive unit is even stingier. Midway through the fourth quarter, the Jets lead 13-7.

On the opening drive of the fourth quarter, Baltimore legend Johnny Unitas replaces the struggling Morrall at quarterback. Midway through the period, Unitas leads the Colts on a long march. On second-and-10 from the Jets' 25-yard line, he underthrows Orr. New York cornerback Randy Beverly nearly gets his second interception of the day...but can't hang on to the ball. Five plays later, Matte barrels in from the 2 to give the Colts a 14-13 lead.

The Jets are unable to sustain another drive. With 1:36 left in the game, Namath's pass is intercepted by safety Jerry Logan. The Colts become world champions. A soon-to-be-famous photograph captures Namath leaving the field, shoulders slumped, head bowed in contrition.

In the Colts' locker room, Tom Matte (18 carries, 144 yards) is named most valuable player of Super Bowl III. Defensive end Lou Michaels, who has spent much of the previous week verbally jousting with the Jets quarterback, tells reporters: "Namath is a tough kid. He never gave up. But maybe next time he'll give us old NFLers a little respect."

January 13, 1969: Newspaper headlines trumpet the triumph of the old guard. "Limited Guarantee," says the *Los Angeles Times*. "**AwFuL**," snickers the *Washington Post*.

In Monongahela, Pennsylvania, a prepubescent boy who had idolized Namath is heartbroken by his hero's comeuppance. Twelve-year-old Joe Montana decides to turn his primary attention to basketball. He eventually will become an all-district point guard before settling into a career in cellular phone sales.

January 20, 1969: *Sports Illustrated's* Super Bowl edition reads, in part: "For now, anyway, it's cool to be square. Johnny Unitas, as

C. F. Payne

establishment as Chevrolet, folded up the Jets' defense and placed it neatly in his briefcase. Joe Namath, meanwhile, lay bent up like a peace sign."

Spring, 1969: Sales of Joe Namath dolls, Broadway Joe cologne, and white cleats decline dramatically. At Zack's Diner in Brooklyn, Namath Burgers are replaced on the menu by the Unitas Melt.

January 11, 1970: The Kansas City Chiefs take the field for Super Bowl IV as 18-point underdogs to the Minnesota Vikings, but the AFL representative emerges victorious, legitimizing the impending merger.

MVP Len Dawson is hailed as a national hero for upstaging the Vikings under heavy adversity (he had been linked to a gambling investigation the week before the game).

1970-1973: Len Dawson becomes one of America's most popular product spokesmen. His pitches include the Hamilton Beach Butter-Up Popper, Norelco, and the U.S. Milk Advisory Board.

1969: At Zack's Diner in Brooklyn, Namath Burgers are replaced by the Unitas Melt.

February, 1970: Don Shula, head coach of the Colts, is wooed by the Miami Dolphins. Though the offer tempts him, Shula is overcome by the outpouring of sentiment from the fans in Baltimore, where he still is hailed as a civic hero. He especially is swayed by a letter that reads: "Coach Shula, please do not leave us and go to Miami. The Colts need you, and besides, you can't build a snowman in Florida." The letter is signed by each pupil in the fifth-grade class of Shula's son David.

The Dolphins hire Florida State's Bill Peterson as head coach.

August, 1970: ABC-TV airs "Victory and Vindication: The Len Dawson Story," as a Sunday-night movie of the week. David Janssen stars in the title role.

January 17, 1971: The Colts win their second NFL title in three years with a 24-9 victory over the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V. Dallas commits numerous turnovers, while Baltimore operates with typical Shula efficiency.

January 16, 1972: Kansas City advances to its third Super Bowl (VI) but loses to the Cowboys.

July, 1972: Len Dawson lands his first (and only) cinematic role as a tough-talking cop in *D.D. and Company*. The movie disappears from most theaters after three weeks.

1972: The Cleveland Browns get past Miami and Oakland in the AFC playoffs, then upset the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl VII. Leroy Kelly is named MVP of the game.

1973: The Oakland Raiders defeat Miami in the AFC Championship Game, then edge the Vikings 16-10 in Super Bowl IX.

February, 1974: Shula, feeling restless in Baltimore, accepts the position of head coach and general manager with a struggling team looking for strong leadership: the San Diego Chargers.

1978: The Cincinnati Bengals fire head coach Bill Johnson after five games and hire Don Coryell. "We feel fortunate that he was available," says Browns President Paul Brown.

1979: Shula takes the Chargers to the first of three Super Bowls, defeating the Los Angeles Rams 27-14 in XIV. Former President Richard Nixon phones Shula to suggest a pass play, but the coach can't fit it into the game plan.

1981: Rookie receiver Cris Collinsworth becomes the final piece of the offensive puzzle for the Bengals, who already boast quarterback Ken Anderson, wide receiver Isaac Curtis, and tight end Kellen Winslow (drafted in 1979 at Coryell's urging). The potent group is branded "Air Coryell" by a local journalist.

January 24, 1982: Cincinnati defeats Dallas 31-20 in Super Bowl XVI.

1983: In a memorable NFL draft, six quarterbacks are selected in the first round: The six are John Elway (taken by Baltimore, traded to Denver), Todd Blackledge (Kansas City), Jim Kelly (Miami), Tony Eason (Buffalo), Dan Marino (New England), and Ken O'Brien (New York Jets).

January, 1985: Namath, in his third year of eligibility, narrowly misses being voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. It is the closest he will come to enshrinement.

1985: Len Dawson is added to ABC's "Monday Night Football" broadcast crew. His tenure will last one year.

Mike Ditka's Chicago Bears become the first unbeaten, untied team (19-0) in NFL history. On December 2 they trail Miami in the fourth quarter at the Orange Bowl, but the emotionally inspired Bears pull out the win.

Super Bowl XX is recorded as one of the most exciting games in NFL history. New England's Dan Marino passes for 312 yards but is intercepted twice, and Chicago prevails 24-21.

1987: A stretch of Interstate 805 that runs adjacent to San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium is renamed the Don Shula Freeway.

1991: In the AFC Championship Game, Dan Marino and Jim Kelly engage in one of their classic shootouts. Kelly throws 4 touchdown passes and the his Dolphins finally advance to their first Super Bowl.

1993: The Indianapolis Colts wear a 25-year anniversary patch to remember their first Super Bowl championship team.

November 14, 1993: The Chargers beat Chicago 20-13 in a Sunday-night game. It is Shula's 325th victory as an NFL head coach, surpassing the mark of 324 established by the Bears' legendary George Halas.

January, 1995: The official Super Bowl XXIX game program features an in-depth profile of Len Dawson and how he influenced the evolution of NFL football.

A creatively strapped program editor makes wild guesses about how things might be different if the Vikings had won Super Bowl IV. After all, if just a few plays had transpired differently... ◆

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'0' Is for Offense

As the Roman Numerals Continue Skyward, So Do the Point Totals and Passing Statistics

By Tom Barnidge

It is hard to imagine what Vince Lombardi must think as he gazes down on the Super Bowl these days, but we safely can anticipate one question he would ask: When did the NFL quit playing defense?

If he watched the Cowboys and Bills in Super Bowl XXVII, he saw 9 touchdowns and 770 total yards. If he watched Super Bowl XXVI, when Washington met Buffalo, he saw 61 points and 700 yards. And if he tuned in to Super Bowl XXIV, Lombardi must have done a double-take. The 49ers hot-wired the scoreboard with a record-setting 55 points.

You don't have to be a Hall of Fame coach to detect the trend. Seven of the eight highest-scoring Super Bowls were played in the last nine years. The winning teams in the last 10 Super Bowls have *averaged* 446 total yards. And the 69 points produced in Super Bowl XXVII were the most ever scored in a Super Bowl.

No one can say precisely when the skies exploded and defensive game plans were torched, but there's little doubt offense has inherited the Super Bowl.

If you spread the statistical printouts from every Super Bowl across the floor, one particular observation leaps into your lap: The passing game has leapfrogged from Paleozoic Era to Cellular Phone Age.

Coaches might be born with a fascination for the ground, but they have learned to embrace the forward pass. The proof is as clear as the big game's run-pass ratio, which has done a flip-flop over the past 27 seasons.

In the first 10 Super Bowls, the average winning team called 43 runs and 21 passes. In the last 10 games, the breakdown has been 38-33. Where passes once accounted for less than one-third of the plays called, they now account for 47 percent. Plus, more passing attempts, with the clock stopping after incompletions, have resulted in more total plays.

"I don't think there's any question that coaching philosophies have changed," says Hank Stram, a CBS broadcaster who speaks from experience. Stram was the Kansas City Chiefs' head coach when they won Super Bowl IV. On that afternoon, he called for 42 handoffs and 20 passing plays.

One of the most vivid illustrations of changing times is the list of Super Bowl quarterbacks who passed for 250 or more yards. The Packers' Bart Starr did it in Super Bowl I...and he was alone for 12 years. In the last 15 seasons he has been surpassed 17 times. Twelve of those performances came in the last nine years. In Super Bowl XIX, Dan Marino and Joe Montana each exceeded 300 yards.

Jimmy Cribb

Troy Aikman's 273 yards and 4 touchdowns a year ago were a far cry from the grind-it-out mentality of Lombardi's Packers and the perfect Dolphins.

In the Super Bowl's earliest years, the hallmark of success was a lack of reliance upon the pass. In each of the first 11 games, it was the *losing team* that attempted more passes. In three of the last five years, the *winning team* has had more attempts.

Changing times? Consider this: When the Dolphins completed their remarkable 17-0 season in Super Bowl VII, quarterback Bob Griese completed 8 of 11 passes for a total of 88 yards. A year ago, when the Cowboys were the class of the NFL, Troy Aikman had 22 completions in 30 attempts for 273 yards and 4 touchdowns.

The inclination is to conclude that the Dolphins' running game was stronger. Anyone want to tell that to Emmitt Smith?

Among the reasons for this evolution, according to former Redskins head coach Joe Gibbs, are rules revi-

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sions that have changed the way the game is played.

A change in 1977 outlawed the head slap, formerly a favorite weapon of defensive linemen such as Deacon Jones. The net result was a less formidable pass rush and more time for the quarterback to locate receivers.

In 1978, pass-blocking rules were liberalized to permit extended arms and open hands. "Before that," says former Steelers head coach Chuck Noll, "it was almost impossible to stop some pass rushers. A guy like Gino Marchetti, for instance, just tore through pass blockers."

But neither of those was the key catalyst, according to Gibbs. The most important rules change, enacted in 1978, altered the definition of pass interference. That one left the most profound mark on the game.

"In the old days," Gibbs says, "until the ball was in the air, you used to be able to pound the snot out of a receiver all the way down the field. Now, a defender can't touch him after he's five yards from scrimmage. The idea is to let the receivers run free in the secondary. It's worked, believe me."

Noll says the change also prevented defenses from using certain disguises in their pass coverage. "We used to set up with defensive backs ten yards deep, like we were in man-to-man coverage," he explains. "Then, we'd jam the receiver when he got to the coverage and rotate into zone. With the new rule, we couldn't do that anymore."

The impact was immediate. In the first two Super Bowls after the rule was enacted, the Steelers' Terry Bradshaw had back-to-back 300-yard passing games—the first in the game's history. Since then, there have been six more 300-yard passing games.

But rules are not all that has changed during the last 27 seasons. The players have become bigger, faster, and stronger. They've been exposed to more sophisticated systems. From an NFL coach's standpoint, as strange as it may seem, some of the most significant innovations have occurred at the college level, where passing offense has received new attention.

"I'll tell you one reason the passing is better now," Stram says. "It's because there are more quarterbacks in the league who came out of a passing environment in college. In the early years, it was difficult to get a guy from a program with a passing offense.

"Mostly they were run-oriented and option-oriented quarterbacks. It took years to teach them a new system. The feed factor, from college to pro football, wasn't nearly as great as it is now. The influx of good quarterbacks has resulted in pro coaches who are willing to throw the ball."

The 1983 NFL draft provides stirring testimony. It delivered a bounty of ready-made passers—Jim Kelly, John Elway, Ken O'Brien, Tony Eason, and Marino—one year after Jim McMahon and one year before Boomer Esiason arrived. The trend has continued since. In four of the last seven NFL drafts, the number-one overall pick has been a quarterback.

George Rebarge

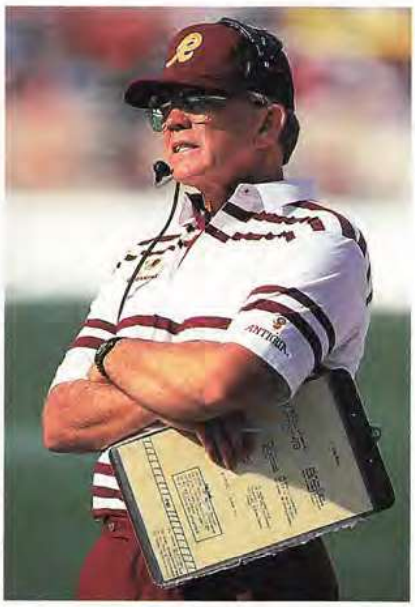
In 1978, it became illegal to batter a receiver more than five yards downfield. That was bad news for physical cover men such as the Raiders' Lester Hayes (left).

It was only natural that coaching philosophies would change. Still, it has been a fascination for CBS broadcaster Pat Summerall, a former NFL player who has been in the TV booth for 13 Super Bowls.

"Under the Lombardi philosophy," he says, "it was simple: You set your game plan around attacking the other team's strongest player. Lombardi felt if you defeated him, that the rest of the players would quit. The Packers believed you had to run to be successful. They wanted to control the ball.

"But when the 49ers emerged under Bill Walsh, they used the pass like the run. Their approach was entirely different. They dissected a defense where they thought it was weakest."

"In the eighties and nineties," Gibbs says, "teams are throwing the ball more. Teams are more balanced than they used to be. Walsh started it all with the ball-control passing. In my twelve years with the Red-



Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Joe Gibbs: "In Super Bowl XVII we didn't call one audible....Five years later we used audibles on forty percent of the plays we called."

Perry McIntyre

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Looking for more pointed explanations? Try a proliferation of new schemes (such as the Run-and-Shoot, top) and new technology. Video monitors and VCRs have become standard equipment for many teams.

skins, our breakdown was almost fifty-fifty with runs and passes."

At least some of the changes in strategy can be attributed to vastly improved preparation—better scouting, computers, and videotape. Coaches know more about the defenses they'll face, so they have a better idea of how to attack them.

"I worked each of the first three Super Bowls," Summerall says, "and I remember that the Packers didn't know anything about the Chiefs or the Raiders. The Colts didn't know anything about the Jets. As a result, those games started out as more of a feeling-out process than two teams ready to play a game.

"Last year, the Cowboys had all sorts of theories about what they had to accomplish against the Bills. With the introduction of videotape as a scouting tool, the teams can study each other so much more carefully. You don't see any surprises anymore. You know a team's weaknesses and its tendencies."

Equally important, Summerall believes, is that teams know more about the Super Bowl today. The media attention and the demands for photographs and interviews that accompany the game have become less of a distraction from preparation. So much the better for implementing complex, multifaceted game plans.

"As time has passed," Summerall says, "the teams have become more accustomed to the schedule—the demands and diversions of the week. Coaches talk among themselves. They know what to expect."

If simplicity once was a virtue in a game plan, now it is an outdated concept. Playbooks are thicker, rosters are deeper, and preparation includes every contingency. Under Lombardi, the Packers were content to wear down opponents with their conditioning, execution, and perseverance. Under Gibbs, the Redskins arrived with a Rolodex of options, prepared for every foreseeable game situation.

"The way things are now," Gibbs says, "I think there's about a thirty-percent change in the NFL every year. We have new formations, new offenses, new defenses, new situation packages.

"Think about what's gone on: the one-back offense, the Run-and-Shoot, the No-Huddle, the four-wide-receiver set. Think about Buddy Ryan's forty-six defense, Nickel backs, and Dime backs. The game is constantly evolving, and if you don't keep up with the changes, you're left behind."

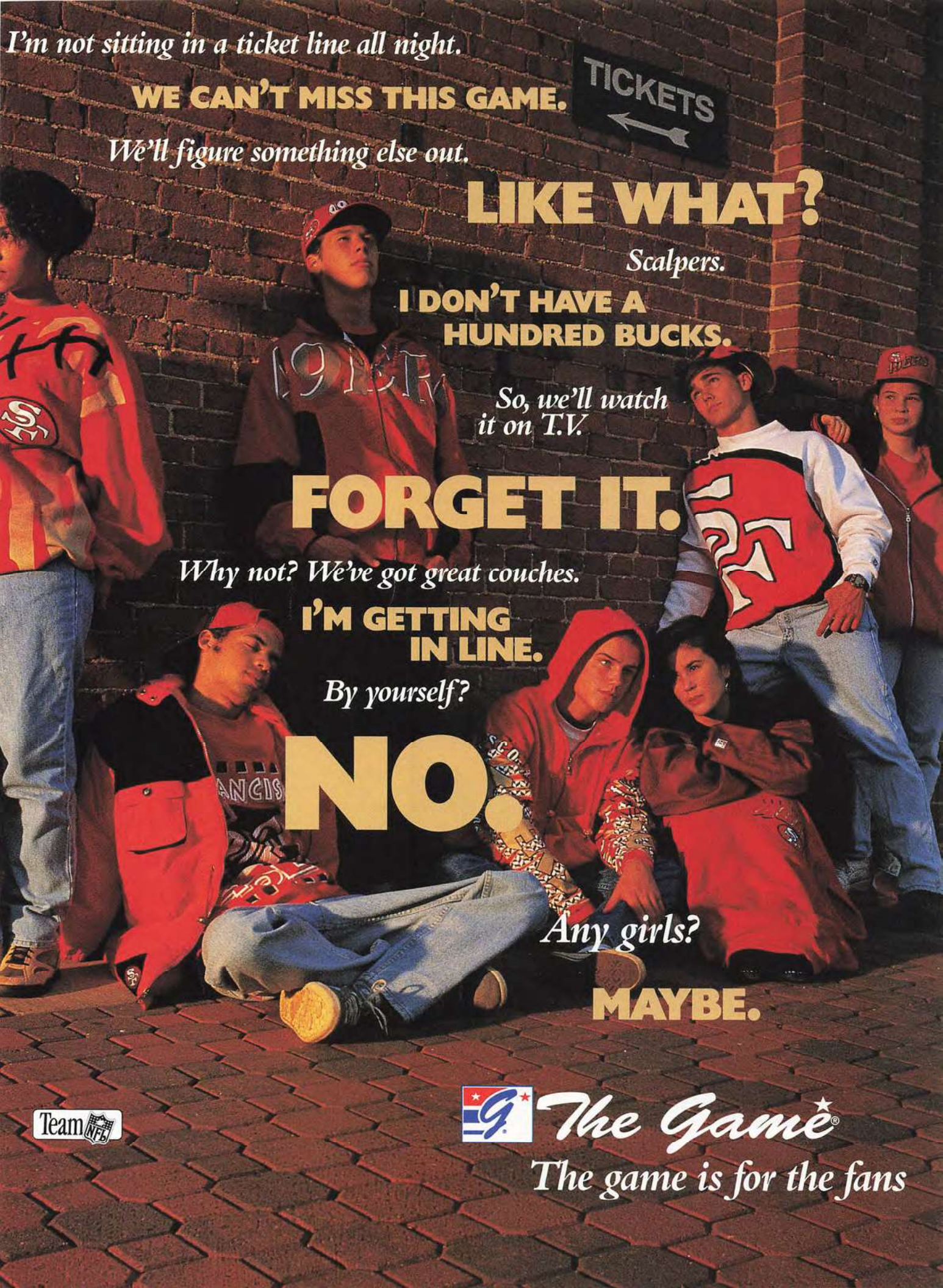
He offers one illustration of his point: "In Super Bowl XVII [a 27-17 victory over Miami] we didn't call one audible the entire game," Gibbs says. "Not a single one. When we went back five years later for Super Bowl XXII [a 42-10 victory over Denver], we used audibles on forty percent of the plays we called."

Offenses have become meticulously specialized—by down and distance, by game situation. Formations have been designed to utilize extra wide receivers and

PASS MASTERS OF THE SUPER BOWL

As offensive philosophies have changed through the years, the Super Bowl has become a showcase for prolific passers. It wasn't always that way, as reflected in this list of quarterbacks who have thrown for 250 or more yards in the game:

SUPER BOWL	QUARTERBACK (YARDS)
I	Bart Starr (250)
II	none
III	none
IV	none
V	none
VI	none
VII	none
VIII	none
IX	none
X	none
XI	none
XII	none
XIII	Terry Bradshaw (318)
XIV	Terry Bradshaw (309)
XV	Ron Jaworski (291), Jim Plunkett (261)
XVI	Ken Anderson (300)
XVII	none
XVIII	none
XIX	Joe Montana (331), Dan Marino (318)
XX	Jim McMahon (256)
XXI	John Elway (304), Phil Simms (268)
XXII	Doug Williams (340), John Elway (257)
XXIII	Joe Montana (357)
XXIV	Joe Montana (297)
XXV	none
XXVI	Mark Rypien (292), Jim Kelly (275)
XXVII	Troy Aikman (273)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tight ends. Shifts, motion, and multiple sets have added new wrinkles to offensive attacks. Every addition has meant a new problem for the defense.

"Situation substitution has been one of the big changes in recent years," Stram says. "The game is more artistic now. You're drawing plays with people who are specialists in certain areas, people who might play only three or four minutes all game. The defenses have tried to react, but the advantage is with the offense."

Rob Brown

The Super Bowl can turn one-sided when a team falls behind and starts to get that feeling of desperation.

Summerall, who has been around pro football most of his adult life, says even some of the game's most mundane advancements have worked to the advantage of the offense. Lighter equipment has made receivers faster and more mobile—hence, harder to defend. Playing surfaces with better traction have enabled ball carriers to accelerate quicker and make sharper cuts, leaving defenders with less time to react. At the championship level, where the best players perform, the difference is even more pronounced.

"Back in the early years," Summerall says, "before we saw the sophistication we see today, players had one pair of shoes for the season. If you were a star, maybe you got two. The guys now have fifteen pairs for artificial turf and fifteen others if it's muddy or the grass is long. Is it any wonder they move better?

"And the old shoulder pads were heavy to begin with, but they got heavier as they absorbed moisture during the game. Today, the equipment is light and it stays dry. It allows a runner the freedom to move. Other than the players, who are the best the game has ever seen, the equipment of today may be the biggest difference in the game."

Still, there is another reason scores have mushroomed as the Super Bowl has aged: There have been several blowouts in which winning teams have distorted statistics late in the game.

The Cowboys scored 21 fourth-quarter points last year as they bombarded the Bills. The 49ers scored 28 of their 55 points in the second half of Super Bowl XXIV. The Giants hit Denver with 30 points after halftime in Super Bowl XXI.

The phenomenon is not so difficult to understand, according to those who have participated in the game. As the Super Bowl has grown in stature and as anxiety has increased, the players' emotions have been prone to visit deeper valleys and higher peaks.

Cris Collinsworth, a wide receiver for the Bengals in Super Bowls XVI and XXIII and now a commentator for NBC, explains what happens: "When you get out of it in the Super Bowl, it's the ultimate letdown. You don't even want to finish the game. You can sense the desperation. You see ridiculous plays. That's when the scoring goes crazy."

Gibbs also has recognized the sensation. "You come down to the end," he says, "and two teams have played their guts out. They may be evenly matched. But the game starts to swing one way, and it becomes a blowout because there's nothing left to play for. When you're going down in the last game of the year, it's demoralizing."

Ultimately, though, we return to the numbers. Statistics tell the story in black and white. During the last 10 years, the winning Super Bowl teams have *averaged* 39 points. That's more than Green Bay, Miami, or Pittsburgh scored in any of their eight Super Bowl wins.

Neither the Packers nor the Dolphins nor the Steelers ever gained 400 yards in a Super Bowl. Eight different teams have done so since 1983.

So defense is dead, right? The *X's* have been done in by the *O's*. Today's NFL champion is the team that's best at scoring.

Well, not exactly.

"The games may be going up in scoring because of rules changes and what-not," Gibbs concedes, "but it's defense that wins championships. The same things get you there now that got you there before.

"The team with the better defense wins." ◆

LIGHTING UP SUPER BOWL SCOREBOARDS

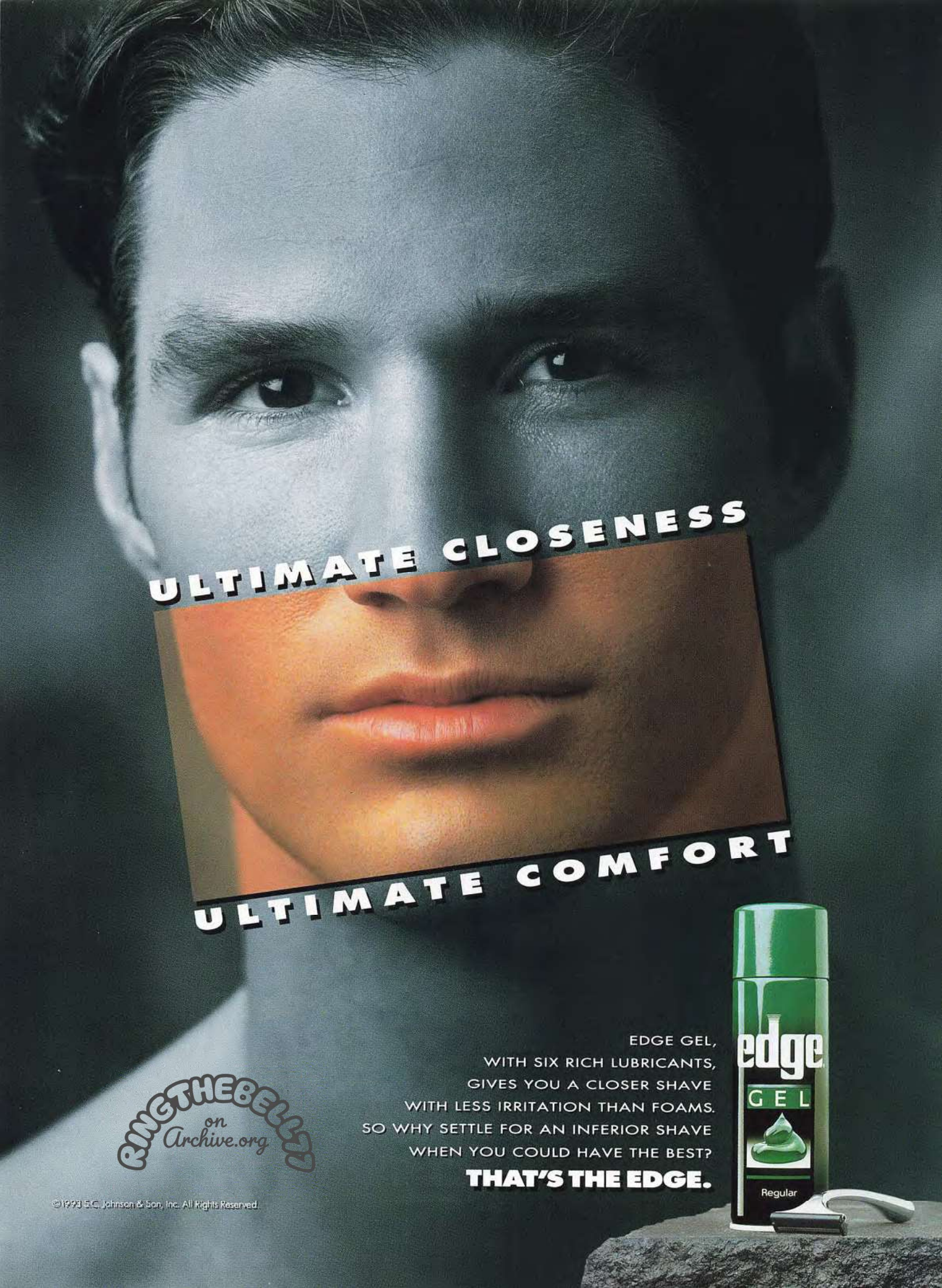
Offensive explosions have been the rule, not the exception, in recent Super Bowls. Note that seven of the eight highest-scoring games occured in the last nine years, and the seven lowest-scoring games were played in the first nine years.

HIGHEST-SCORING SUPER BOWLS

PTS.	SCORE	YEAR	(SUPER BOWL)
69	Dallas 52, Buffalo 17	1993	(XXVII)
66	Pittsburgh 35, Dallas 31	1979	(XIII)
65	San Francisco 55, Denver 10	1990	(XXIV)
61	Washington 37, Buffalo 24	1992	(XXVI)
59	N.Y. Giants 39, Denver 20	1987	(XXI)
56	Chicago 46, New England 10	1986	(XX)
54	San Francisco 38, Miami 16	1985	(XIX)
52	Washington 42, Denver 10	1988	(XXII)

LOWEST-SCORING SUPER BOWLS

PTS.	SCORE	YEAR	(SUPER BOWL)
21	Miami 14, Washington 7	1973	(VII)
22	Pittsburgh 16, Minnesota 6	1975	(IX)
23	N.Y. Jets 16, Baltimore 7	1969	(III)
27	Dallas 24, Miami 3	1972	(VI)
29	Baltimore 16, Dallas 13	1971	(V)
30	Kansas City 23, Minnesota 7	1970	(IV)
31	Miami 24, Minnesota 7	1974	(VIII)



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C Bears	F Eagles	I Colts	L Cardinals	O Saints	R Raiders	U Browns	X Chargers		4 Giants

2 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

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Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year) | Mother's Maiden Name | Home Phone Number And Area Code ( ) | Name Home Phone Is Listed Under | Are You A Permanent U.S. Resident? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Previous Home Address, Number And Street | City Or Town | State | Zip Code | Years There

3 PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB

Business Name Or Employer At Current Job | Position | Years At Job | Employer Phone Number And Area Code ( )

Check Here If You Are: ☐ Retired ☐ Self-Employed | If Retired Or Self-Employed, Enter Bank Name | Bank Phone Number And Area Code ( ) | Bank Account Number

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Your Total Personal **Yearly** Income $ | Other **Yearly** Household Income $

Other **Yearly** Income Sources

5 IMPORTANT ACCOUNT INFORMATION

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☐ Checking Account — Institution Name:

☐ Savings Account — Institution Name:

☐ Visa/MasterCard ☐ Diners Club ☐ American Express
☐ Dept. Store/Sears ☐ Gasoline ☐ Other

6 WOULD YOU LIKE AN ADDITIONAL CARD AT NO CHARGE?

If Yes, **Print** The Full Name Of The User (First, Middle, Last)

7 PLEASE SIGN THIS AUTHORIZATION

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Applicant's Signature | Date

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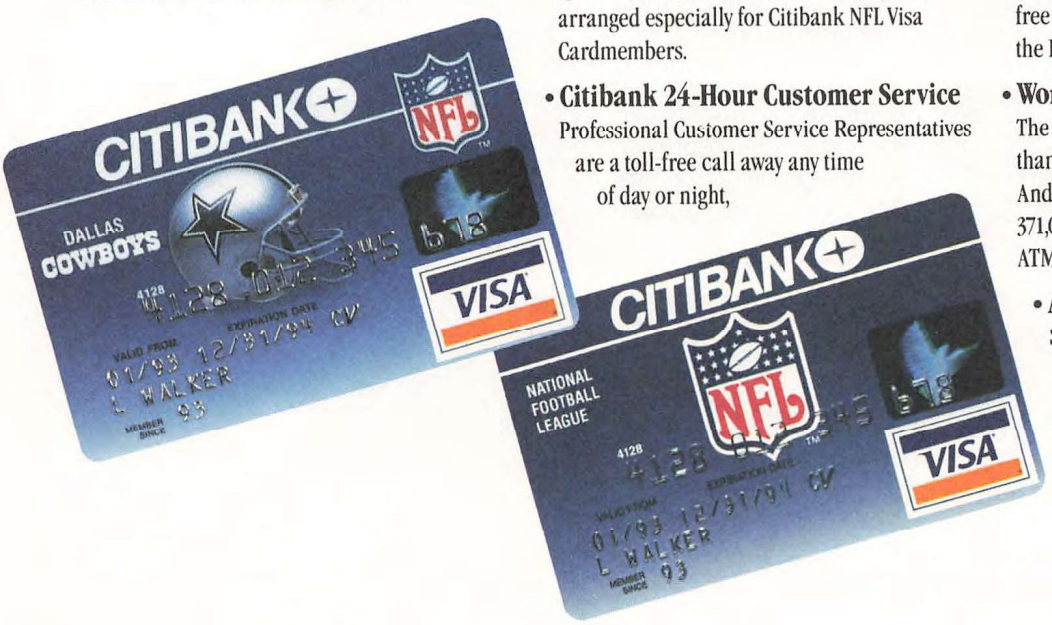

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WEISS WORDS

Behind the Scenes With a Super Bowl Insider

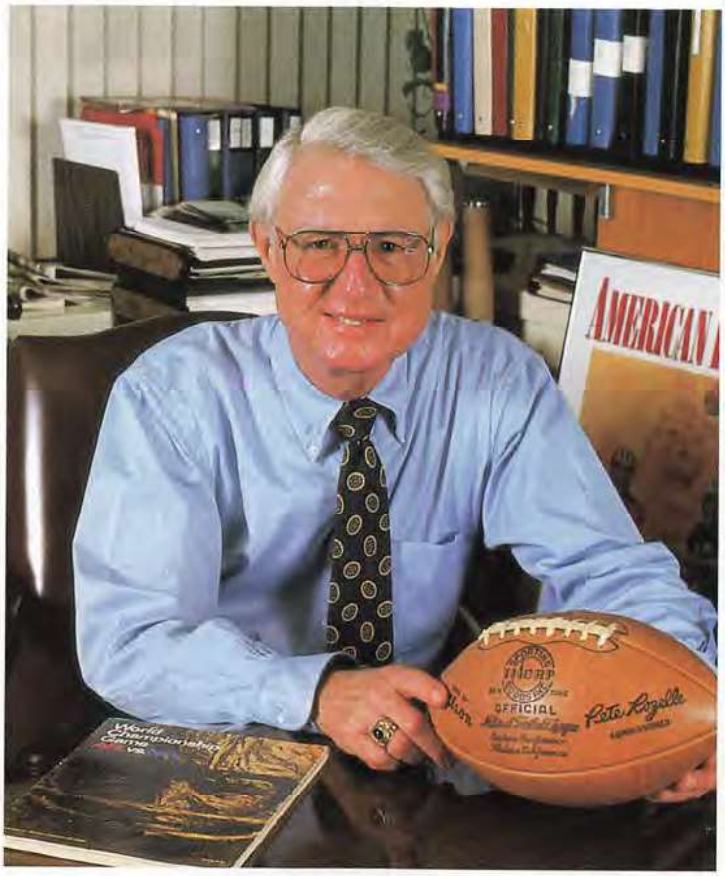
BY VIC CARUCCI

When it comes to the Super Bowl, Don Weiss knows as well as anyone what it means to be way out in front. Not on the scoreboard, but in the staging of the event—the behind-the-scenes work that usually begins two years in advance...and never seems to end.

In his 29 years with the National Football League, Weiss has been involved, in one form or another, with the planning of every Super Bowl since the first on January 15, 1967, at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

"He is one of the most efficient and dependable men I've ever known," former NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle once said.

Weiss joined the NFL as director of public relations in 1965, after 13 years as a sportswriter for the Associated Press *and two as a publicist with the United States Golf Association. In 1977 he became the league's executive director, and, since 1990, he has been its director of planning.*



David Drapkin

NFL executive Don Weiss has vivid memories of XXVII Januaries.

Weiss recently sat down to reflect on watching, first-hand, the game's growth from infancy to a national obsession:

Q: *What was it like to prepare for that first Super Bowl?*

A: "Number one, there wasn't much time. We had gone to Congress to get the act of merging the American Football League and National Football League exempted from antitrust claims. That bill didn't pass until October 21, 1966. So we didn't know whether we could go forward until then.

"And it was not until two weeks later that we even announced where the game was going to be played, when it was going to be played, and how much the tickets were. We started planning at a time when now, for heaven's sakes, we're telling the media that all credential applications are closed, all of the hotel rooms are sold, and all of the tickets are allocated.

"Our headquarters, which we arranged in about the third week of December, were at the Statler Hilton in downtown Los Angeles. The hotel had conflicting conventions, so we had to move within the hotel three different times that week. We finally told everybody just to check the board when they got up each morning to find out where everything was that day."

Q: *Were you disappointed with the crowd of 61,946 in a 93,000-seat stadium?*

A: "We had anticipated we would sell the place out, but there were a few things that hurt us a great deal. One was how late it all came together. Second, the skepticism about how good the AFL champion was and whether it could compete with the NFL champion. And the third, and maybe the biggest, was that the *Los Angeles Times*, for some reason, thought we were going to televise the game locally and wrote a story to that effect. But we never intended to lift the blackout on the TV coverage, which for that first game was provided by two networks, CBS and NBC. At that time, we had a policy of blacking out games whether they were sold out or not.

"So we had a real skeptical ticket-buying group. Pete Rozelle later made the remark that maybe we priced the tickets too high for that time—they were twelve dollars, ten dollars, and six dollars."

Q: *What was the media attention like?*

A: "At the start, the media's impression was that the NFL Championship Game was going to be more competitive because the AFL champion just wasn't ready to compete with the NFL champion. So some of the newspapers in NFL cities didn't even cover the first Su-

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per Bowl, even though they had covered the NFL Championship Game two weeks before, when the Packers beat the Cowboys in a [34-27] thriller in Dallas. Now, we have to fight them off, all the way from fifty-thousand-circulation up."

Q: *What sorts of things did you do to hype the game?*

A: "After we saw that ticket sales were not going well, someone on the planning staff suggested we have the silver trophy for the winning team—what we now call the Lombardi Trophy—'stolen,' and then we'd 'find' it just a couple of hours before the game.

"So we began discussing how we would plant this fictitious story about how the trophy had disappeared on a flight from New York to L.A. We finally rejected the idea because we thought it was too hokey, but we were quite serious about it. We even got down to how it would 'reappear,' in a Perry Mason-type setting. But we wound up putting it in a special display case at the Commissioner's party with two armed guards standing at attention on both sides of it."

Q: *How much thought was given before choosing the name "Super Bowl"?*

A: "Frankly, we didn't like the name at first. If we'd had our choice, we would have called it the Pro Bowl, but we already had that name for our all-star game. So we wound up with that catchy phrase of 'The AFL-NFL World Championship Game,' which we used for the first three.

"Just before the third—when Joe Namath and the New York Jets upset the Baltimore Colts, causing the whole Super Bowl idea to catch fire—we ran a media contest to name the game. We got a couple-hundred suggestions from pro football beat writers around the country, everything from 'Universal Bowl' to 'THE Bowl.' We picked 'Premier Bowl' as the winner, but that never took hold, either.

"At the same time, the press had picked up on the fact the TV networks were promoting their coverage of the game as "Super Sunday." There was also a popular toy at the time called "Super Ball," which bounced extraordinarily high. Lamar Hunt, the owner of the Kansas City Chiefs, was well aware of it because his kid had one. And he just thought it would be a natural fit—'Super Ball ...Super Bowl.'"

Q: *Considering the tensions that had existed between the leagues, what was it like working with AFL officials for the first four Super Bowls?*

A: "It wasn't really a problem because, with Pete [Rozelle] as the Commissioner, it was pretty much the NFL's game. But, socially, there were some problems.

"The AFL had a party in Beverly Hills a couple nights before the game and invited the NFL owners to attend. Some of the NFL owners got very upset about some of the things that were said during the party about the NFL. There had been intense competition for players the last three or four years. It was a very gracious move by the AFL owners to invite their NFL counterparts, but it didn't turn out to be a very pleasant evening."

Q: *When did the Super Bowl begin making its biggest strides toward what we know it to be today?*

A: "The first time we realized that we had something was on the day after the Chiefs beat the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl Four in New Orleans. The game was played not long after Neil Armstrong had walked on the moon.

"Pete always had a press conference the day after the game, summing it all up. And he opened the press conference that day by saying, 'More people watched yesterday's Super Bowl than watched the first man on the moon.'

"Another sign of the growing popularity was that the writers began coming to the game site earlier in the week, and there were more of them staying for a longer period of time. We also began having more and more companies and advertisers come in. And that's where the logistical problems began to develop. We were good at putting on a game, but we didn't have a whole lot of expertise, at that time, in accommodating folks.

"At first it was just the teams and the media, and the other people went wherever they could go. After that, we were accommodating companies, clients, sponsors, networks. For example, Ford's biggest incentive program for its dealers was, for many years, a trip to the Super Bowl. They'd bring four-thousand to five-thousand people. So we began urging Pete to make site decisions much earlier, to give us lead time of one or two years. We also began to understand the hotel industry a little bit better.

"The biggest thing we discovered was how much turnover takes place in hotel managerial jobs. For instance, we had a team hotel in Miami that had three different general managers in a six-month period, including the last one about two-and-a-half weeks before the game. And the last one who came in didn't know what a Super Bowl

"Someone suggested we have the Lombardi Trophy 'stolen,' and then we'd 'find' it just a couple of hours before the game."

Sign of the times: Super Bowl I was the last that included empty seats.

NFL Photos

was. Finally, we created a special events department, headed by Jim Steeg, that concentrated on this because we were still trying to run the PR department as well."

Q: *What are the main concerns with having so many people in one town at one time?*

A: "First, the number of quality hotels. That's always the top priority. We have a lot of meetings with the airport people as far as flights, because many of the airlines will put on additional service for the Super Bowl. There are also a lot of private planes that come in for the game, and you need to see how many of those the airport can handle.

"Another big concern is the number of buses, rental cars, and limousines available. Limos are always a problem. In Los Angeles you can find them all over the place, but not in most of the other cities. For instance, when we're in Tampa we may get limos from as far away as Texas, because Tampa just isn't a big limo town. We even call on funeral parlors every once in a while."

Q: *Do you have any specific memories of things that went haywire?*

A: "We had several things go wrong at Super Bowl Four at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans. As part of the National Anthem ceremony, we had two hot-air balloons at midfield, with a professional balloonist in each dressed as a mascot of the participating teams—one was a Minnesota Viking, the other a Kansas City Chief—and they were supposed to float up and out of the stadium.

"The Kansas City balloon took off nicely and performed exactly as it should have. But the Minnesota balloon, after being ignited, never got more than five or six feet off the ground and began moving sideways, toward the stands. It just cleared the top of a wheelchair section and crashed right into a row of girls—dressed as southern belles and holding parasols—who were to be part of the halftime show. One girl wound up with a broken leg. But we were extremely fortunate that nothing more serious happened, and that was largely because the balloonist was able to extinguish the flame before he crashed.

"For the halftime show, we did a re-creation of the Battle of New Orleans. One of the cannons misfired and a guy lost two fingers. Then, when the cannon went off, a number of the horses shied and their riders fell, causing one to suffer a broken collarbone.

"On top of that, it had rained quite a bit that week, the tarp had a leak, and the field, which was natural surface, was soaked and very muddy. As a result, we had a rather large float for the halftime show—a big carnival thing with Carol Channing and Al Hirt on top of it ready to perform—get stuck in the mud as it came through the tunnel. I mean, it was eighteen or twenty inches deep in mud.

"We finally got a tractor, which was already there smoothing parts of the sidelines where we put down plywood for the TV cameras to roll on, to pull it out. But we never should have tried it in the first place, because the field was so wet. That's why, today, we bring in three different tarps to make sure there can't be any problem.

"I'll also never forget the first time we were in Pasadena, for Super Bowl Eleven. We had a huge balloon release with the National Anthem and some balloons got caught on the uprights of a goal post. A policeman on the field was getting ready to shoot them loose—and he was serious! Fortunately, before he drew his pistol we got the groundskeeper, George Toma, out there with a ladder and a long pole, and he got them loose."

Q: *What was it like working with the coaches, who can be stubborn and difficult for a preseason game, let alone a game of that magnitude?*

A: "The first time Don Shula coached in the Super Bowl, the standard line that Jim Kensil, who preceded me as executive director of the NFL, and I would use was, 'Look, if it was good enough for Vince Lombardi, it's good enough for you.'

"Then, when Chuck Noll got in it, we would say, 'Look, if it was good enough for Lombardi and Shula, it's good enough for you.' Actually, Don and Chuck were among the best coaches at handling the whole atmosphere of the Super Bowl. They accepted the distractions, and I think it reflected in the way their teams played."

Q: *What is the most difficult phase of plotting a Super Bowl?*

A: "The halftime shows. By now, the teams know what to expect as far as Super Bowl Week. We haven't changed that much. We have things very well organized for them. But the halftime people

> *"For Super Bowl Eleven we had a huge balloon release and some balloons got caught on the uprights. A policeman was getting ready to shoot them loose."*

Vernon Biever

Super Bowl IV's succession of errors included a wayward Viking balloonist (above) and cannon-related injuries.

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can be a problem to the extent they don't quite understand that we don't want them making six-inch ruts in the middle of a grass field or putting too much weight on an artificial field, or whatever it is.

"Everybody thinks Santa Claus is in the halftime show, even though he never is, so it is a very effective disguise."

"One thing we said from the beginning was that we were not going to tamper with the playing field in any way. So we would always tell the halftime people that if the field wasn't in condition for the type of show that was planned, they were just going to have to perform on the sidelines. And we'd like it to be twenty-four or twenty-five minutes from the time the teams leave the field until the second-half kickoff, with the first four minutes for setup and another five or so to tear it down.

"You don't get a chance to work really closely with these people until Thursday or Friday before the game, which is when you do the first rehearsal of the main pageantry. That doesn't give you a whole lot of time to see the way everything is going together. Consequently, we may have something that they've made too heavy or too big. And we don't find out until suddenly, on game day—like the one that got caught in the tunnel in New Orleans.

Q: *Have you had a problem with gatecrashers?*

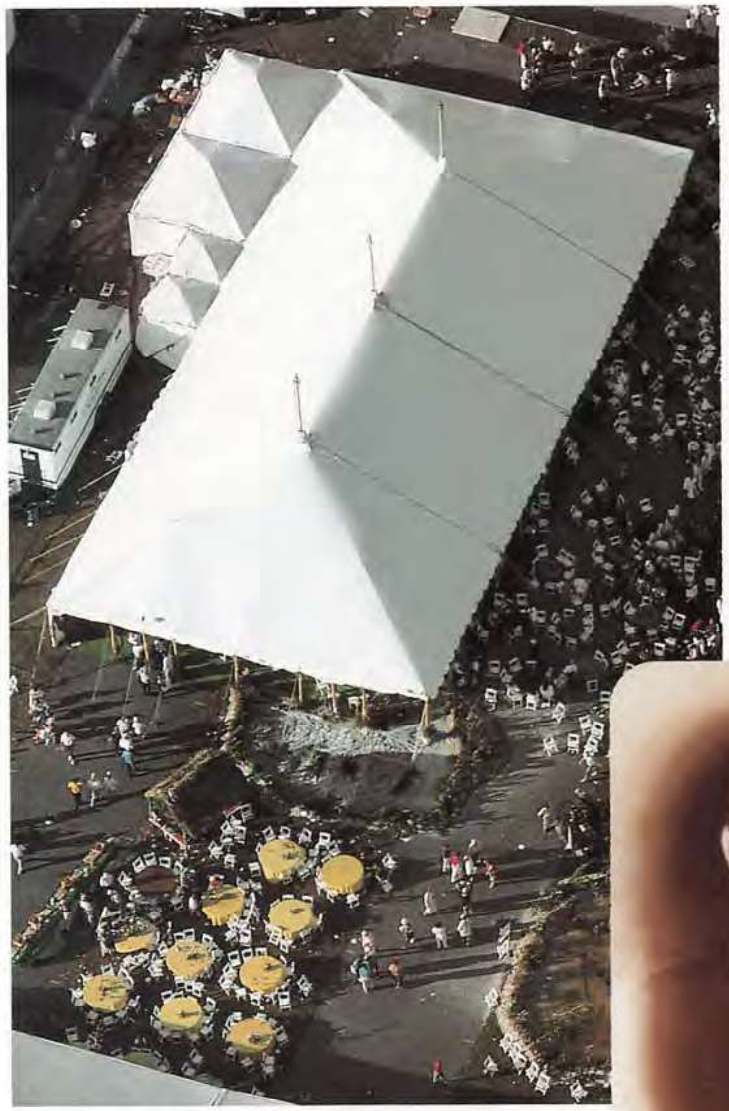
A: "Before Super Bowl Seven, the Miami-Washington game at the Los Angeles Coliseum, we had a huge pigeon release, and we had distributed about sixty or seventy credentials that were marked 'pigeon handler.' They were for the people who would go on the field prior to the game, release the pigeons, then leave the stadium because we didn't have any place to put them during the game. When I got on the press-box elevator, I saw a man standing with his son, and I noticed they both were wearing a 'pigeon handler' credential. I told them there weren't any pigeons in the press box—at least none that I knew of—and promptly called security.

"In the early years, we had men dressed as Santa Claus try to get in. That happened several times. Everybody thinks Santa Claus is in the halftime show, even though he never is, so it is a very effective disguise. One time we had one make it inside the Orange Bowl, but he got caught when, about a half-hour before kickoff, I was checking out the auxiliary press section, and there was Santa Claus, sitting right in the middle of the section."

Q: *What is most satisfying about what you have accomplished?*

A: "The most satisfied that I ever felt was after Super Bowl Twenty-Five in Tampa. With Desert Storm going on, those were very difficult conditions under which the game was not only played, but also planned. Of all the times that we've really been concerned about there being some kind of an incident, that was it. Warren Welsh, our director of security, and I went in and met with the FBI and other government officials, and it was fascinating to be exposed to how on top of things they really are.

"Fortunately, all of the proper steps were taken and everything worked out well. We wound up with a very competitive game between Buffalo and the New York Giants, decided on the last kick. And it stuck out as a very joyous affair during a period of great tension."

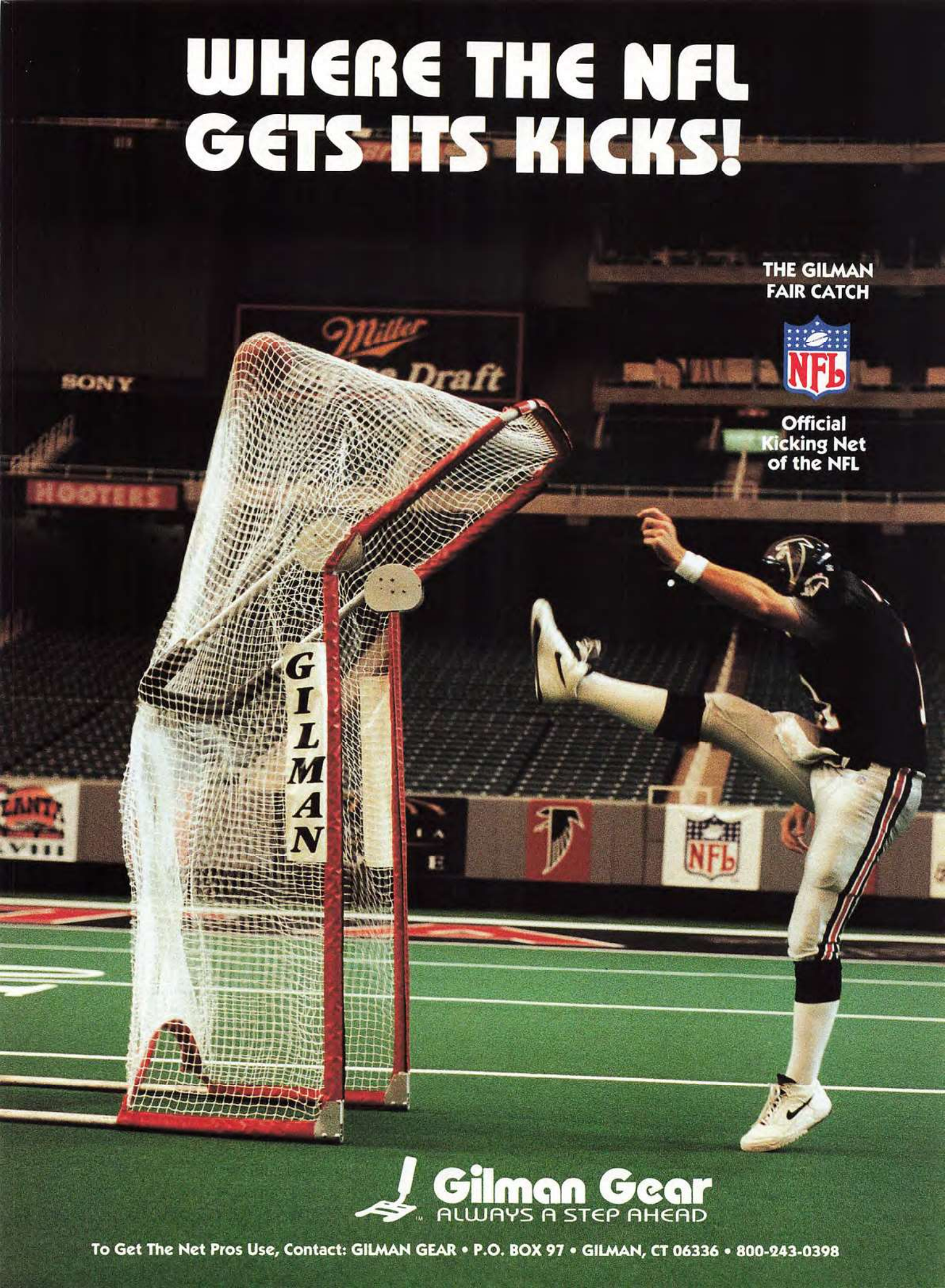


The corporate revelry (above), the press coverage, and the massive security bear little resemblance to the 1960s, when Weiss (right) was learning the NFL ropes.

Q: *How often do you marvel at how much the Super Bowl has grown from its humble beginnings to where it is today?*

A: "Constantly." ◆

Baron Wolman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HELPING HANDS

Youth Education Town is a Shelter in the Storm

BY JIM PERRY

Dear Sir:
This letter is to inform you that I really appreciate your center for the kids. In the beginning I could not get my daughter to come and participate. After I made her go there and look around and get the feel of the place, she loves it. Now I can't keep her away from there (which is good)....

The shopping center is located in Compton, California, a Los Angeles suburb hit hard by the 1992 riots. Stores in the complex were looted, and a fast-food franchise was burned to the ground.

More than a year and a half later, the shopping center no longer is a place of anger and despair. It is a place of hope. There, in the revitalized complex of stores at the corner of Rosecrans and Central, stands the NFL's Youth Education Town, more commonly known as the YET Center.

It's a high-tech educational and recreational complex designed to inspire boys and girls from Compton and South Central Los Angeles to reach their full potential in life.

The center opened its doors in June, 1993, a legacy of Super Bowl XXVII. Financial backing came from country music star Garth Brooks, the NFL, the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, and a long list of corporate sponsors.

Brooks was the largest contributor, donating the $1 million netted from his two sold-out concerts in Los Angeles the week before Super Bowl XXVII.

"This project may have been a good idea," NFL President Neil Austrian says, "but without Garth Brooks, we couldn't have done it."

In a few months, the tradition will continue. Atlanta will have its own YET Center, located in an economically depressed area and scheduled to open this summer. "Atlanta demonstrates our continued commitment to community involvement in each Super Bowl city," NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue says.

In Los Angeles, the YET Center is managed by former Raiders safety Mike Davis, a 37-year-old University of Colorado graduate who grew up in Compton. Davis is an intense, soft-spoken man with two young sons of his own.

"We get kids through the door who have all kinds of [psychological] baggage," Davis says. "But it's our job to make those kids feel secure, raise their level of self-esteem, and instill confidence in them. Our goal is to help them succeed. We take it real seriously."

The Los Angeles YET Center has seven full-time staffers, including two academic instructors and two physical education instructors, and the staff is supplemented by 24 part-time tutors from Teach for America, a national education organization.

Also dropping by once a week, even during the season, is Raiders defensive end Anthony Smith, who has become a favorite of the youngsters.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

"Win or lose, bruised or battered, Anthony is here," Davis says. "I mean, he cares."

"I can tell when there's a new kid in the center because he'll ask me for an autograph," Smith says. "But the kids who have known me long enough know that I'm just Anthony Smith. I want to become a friend, someone special in their lives, someone who will sit down and listen to their problems."

The youngsters who come to YET range in age from 11 to 18. There are nearly 500 active members (it costs $5 per year to use the center), and nearly 300 visit regularly.

"We targeted the middle and high school ages to motivate them to stay in school and offer them the opportunity to excel," Davis says. "Middle schools across the country are having their highest dropout rates ever.

"A lot of the kids we deal with have low self-esteem. They don't think they can learn. Or they don't feel like they're in a situation where they can learn."

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

To help them learn, the YET Center aggressively pursues a four-day study-skills program (Monday through Thursday). The average member is scheduled for academic help two days per week (either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday), from 3 to 6 P.M., followed by physical education from 6 to 7.

"To get through the door, you must bring books and homework," Davis says. "You can get help in any subject, from A to Z. Expert help. We're not trying to replace the schools, we're trying to supplement the kids' education and enhance their awareness of what the world is like.

"I tell the parents we understand your children have just gotten through eight hours of school. Their attention span may be short, they may be tired. But if they're here, we expect them to participate and give an honest effort.

"My directive to the staff is to challenge the students. Push them into doing their homework—and not just completing their homework, but understanding what they're doing.

"The key phrase around here is: Be a critical thinker so you can make informed decisions."

The center has 40 computers, on which students can do homework and take courses in computer skills. In addition, there is a "life-skills program"—assistance in basic day-to-day activities such as getting a driver's license, registering to vote, dealing with Social Security.

A course in health education will be added early this year, along with an entrepreneurial program to teach business skills. Speakers from all types of professions visit, as do experts on topics such as drugs, violence, and gangs.

"We provide the kids with all the information they'll need," Davis

Mark Sherenge/NFLP

Michael Burr

The range of services provided by Mike Davis (above) and his YET staff include physical education and computer training.

says, "but the burden's squarely on them to take advantage of it."

Physical education is an important part of the program, too—("You'll have a strong mind *and* a strong body," Davis says.) The center has a 10,000-square-foot, artificial-turf playing surface outside and a gym that features top-of-the-line weightlifting and rowing equipment.

On Friday, a free day, all members can utilize any part of the facility, whether it's the gym, playing field, computer lab, or library. They can play cards, board games, computer games, football—anything they want.

"But believe it or not," Davis says with pride, "some kids are still banging out their schoolwork."

Because the program is so demanding, Davis is asked how many of the kids really want to come.

"Fifty percent of our kids are here because their mother or father said, 'You have no decision. You are going,'" Davis answers. "And fifty percent want to come. But when it's all said and done, they all want to be here.

"After the first three days, it's just like magic. You can bring in the most unruly kid, and for three days he'll stick to himself, make a snide remark here and there, look like he doesn't want to participate.

"Then, on the fourth day, he realizes that the other kids are into this, that we're serious and sincere about what we're doing, that all we're interested in is, 'Did you get the information? What do you think?'

"All of a sudden that kid just clicks, and he's sold. They turn out to be some of the best ones."

Of course, not every case proves to be successful.

"We lost one recently," Davis says. "We couldn't reach him. He said his gang buddies would take care of him. He said they all look after each other.

"I told him, 'Look, I respect what you're saying because you've formed a bond you feel you can't break. But, at the same time, if you want to get out of this gang, tell them to respect you. They can still be your friends, but you just don't want to get involved in any larcenous activities.'

"I've had this talk with several guys, and we've saved some. It could be for the time being, or it could be for a lifetime. I don't know.

"One-hundred percent of the kids who come in here know about gangs. They know who they are, where they are, and what they're doing. Nobody's naive. They know what's going on out there.

"But so far we've been respected by the factions out there. We have no tagging [graffiti] anywhere, none of our kids have been accosted, we haven't had any incidents. The community has respected us, and those groups out there have respected us."

If Davis and his staff are respected so much, it's probably because they care so much. A good example is Keenan Houston, the 31-year-old chief physical education instructor.

"When kids come here, they're going to get attention," Houston says. "I may not be able to give all the kids I work with the same attention, but I'm going to try my hardest to do it.

"A lot of them come to me with their personal problems, things that are happening at home. When they see me, some of them even say, 'Hi, Dad.' Well, I'll be your father, I'll be your brother, I'll be whatever it takes in order for me to make you a better person.

"It's harder being a kid today, compared to when I was a kid. A lot of them don't even know how to be kids. They don't even know how to smile. For all those smiles that aren't on those kids' faces, I'm here to put them on. That's my job. And I feel I have the best job in the world."

...my daughter thinks the world of Mr. Houston. We lost her father in November, 1992, to lung cancer. When Mr. Houston found this out, he started taking up special time with her because he said he thought she acted a little depressed sometimes. Now her spirits are better, thanks to Mr. Houston.

...Thanks, YET, for coming to our neighborhood. ◆

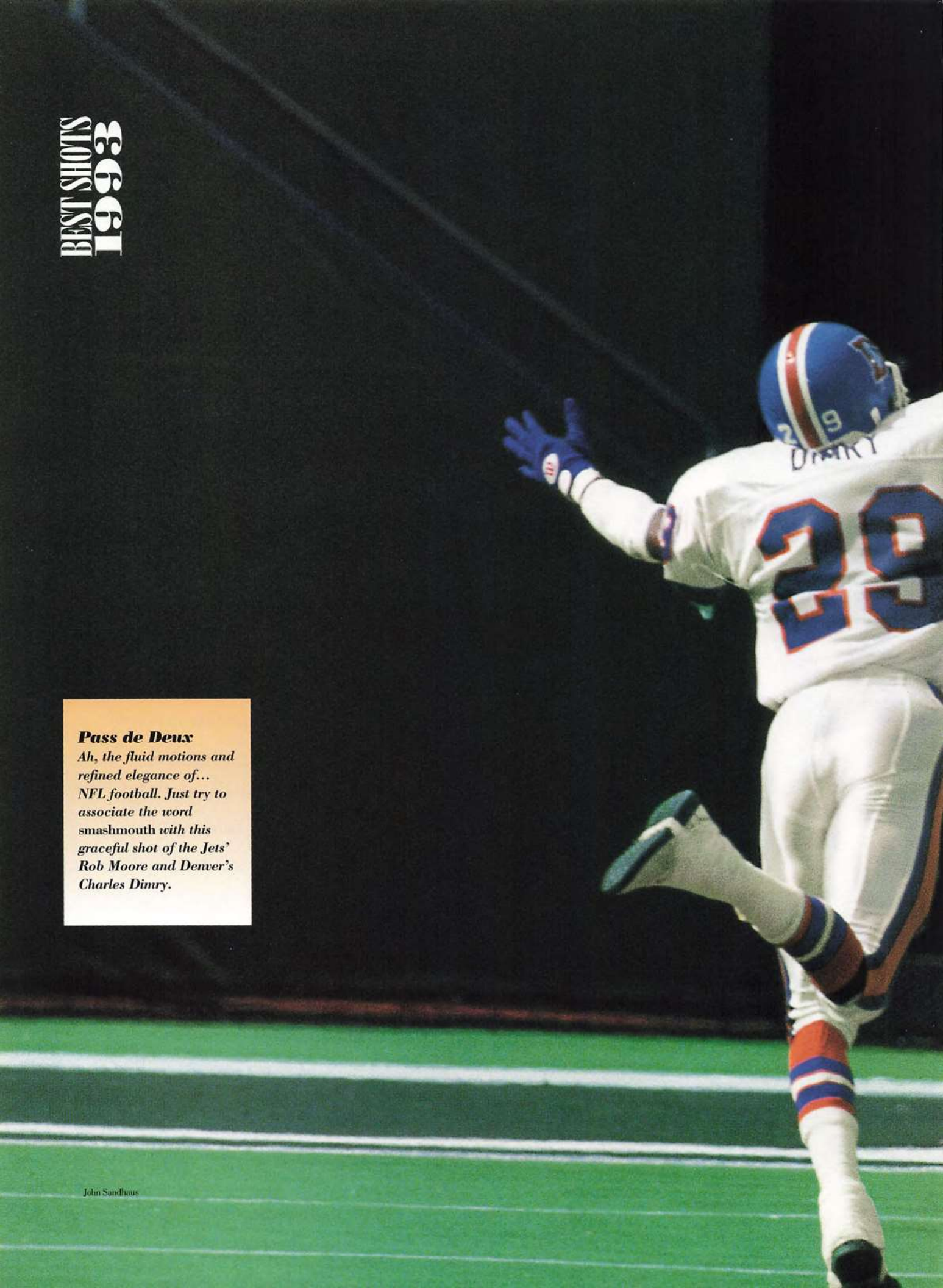
BEST SHOTS *of* 1993

For you budding NFL photographers, the formula for capturing a drop-dead-perfect image is simple, if nearly impossible: (1) Select the ideal film, aperture, shutter speed, and focal distance for a given moment in time. (2) Open the shutter at the precise moment of peak action. Oh, and (3) Have the players you have framed do something remarkable. With so many factors involved, it's amazing NFL photographers can think clearly enough to remember how to get to the stadium. They usually do, and while much of their work never makes it out of the lab, some of it can be stunning. In fact, looking at the scenes on the succeeding pages—the drama, the effort, the excitement, the artistry, the danger—it's hard to argue with the assertion that football is the most photogenic of all pro sports.

Ron Jenkins/*Fort Worth Star Telegram*

Dolphins Off the Hook

Leon Lett's moment of infamy produced a Thanksgiving Day victory for Miami, a spontaneous quiz on the NFL rule book...and a freeze frame worth remembering.



Pass de Deux

Ah, the fluid motions and refined elegance of… NFL football. Just try to associate the word smashmouth *with this graceful shot of the Jets' Rob Moore and Denver's Charles Dimry.*

John Sandhaus

JETS

Ali Jorge

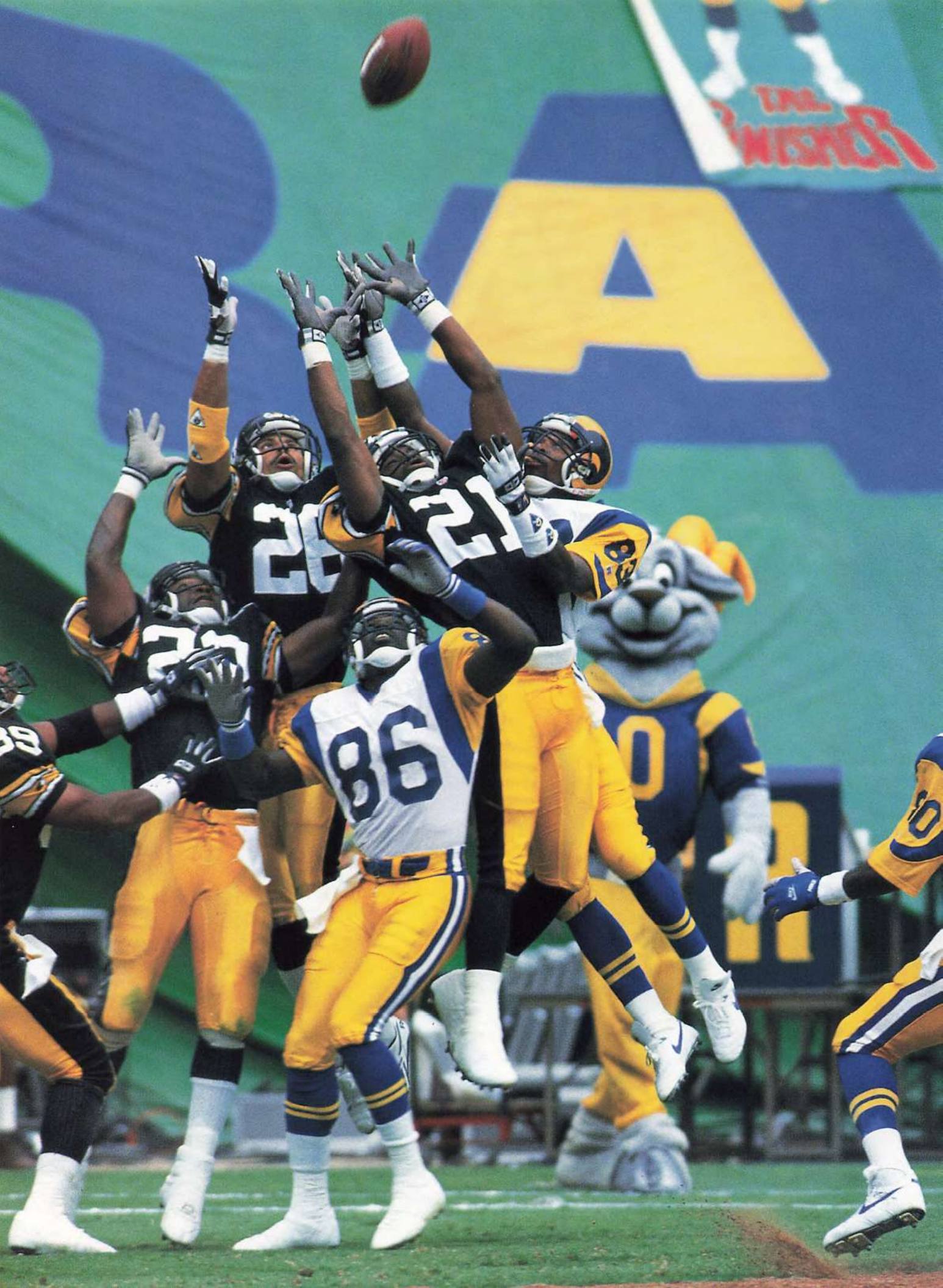
BEST SHOTS 1993

Don't Forget to Buckle Up

If you think driving the New Jersey Turnpike is dangerous, try negotiating the field at the Meadowlands. Above: Bills linebacker Darryl Talley and Jets running back Johnny Johnson find themselves in a head-on collision. Opposite: Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor, clearly at fault, hits Tampa Bay quarterback Craig Erickson, who was parked at the time.

Chris Schwenk

GIANTS


86

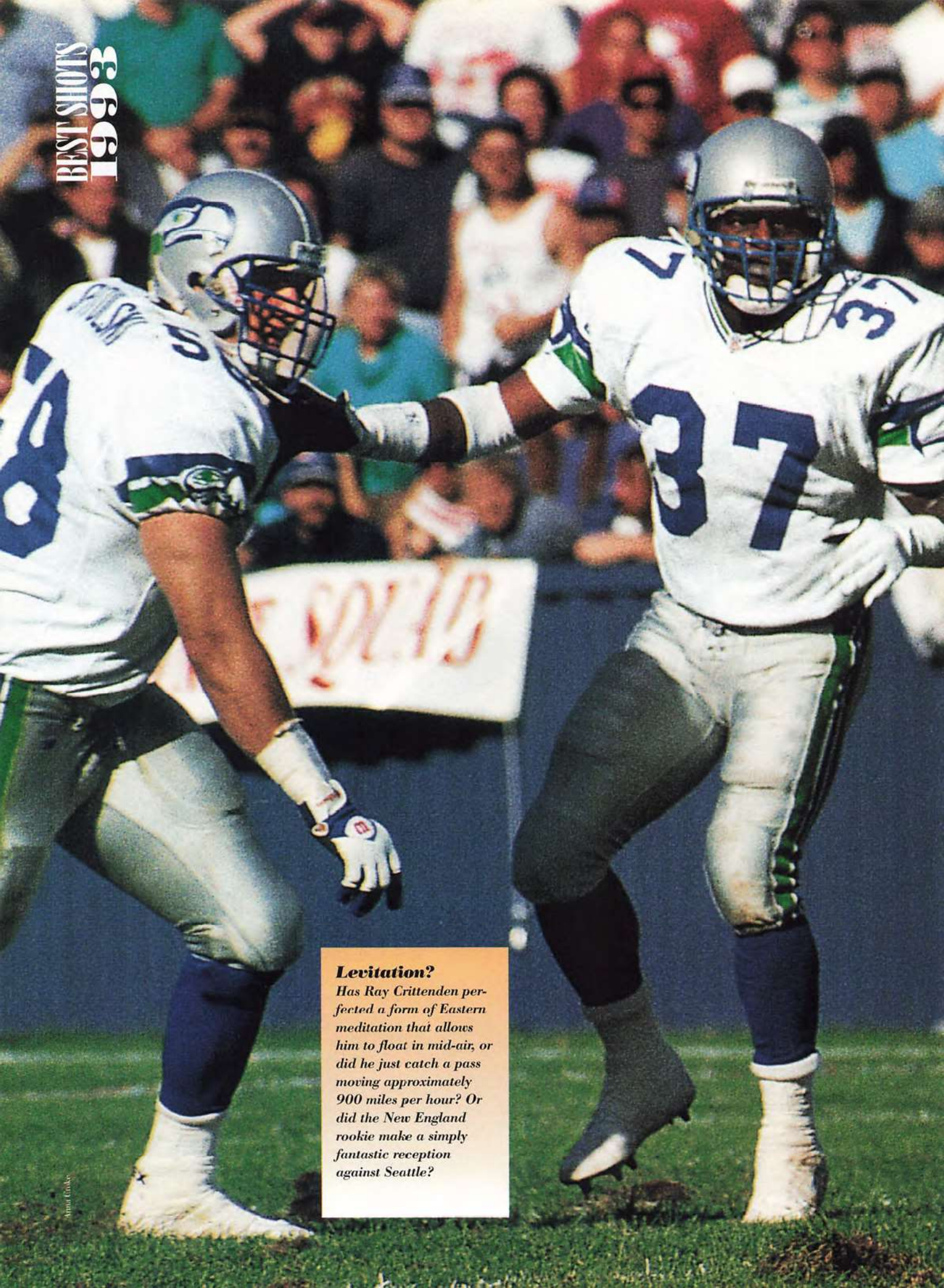
BEST SHOTS 1993

Air Traffic

The control tower has its hands full on this desperation pass by the Rams (opposite), which has everybody in the air except the horned team mascot. Meanwhile, San Diego wide receiver Anthony Miller (right) touches down nicely, despite the turbulence provided by Houston cornerback Cris Dishman.

Joel Zwink

Aggie Skirball

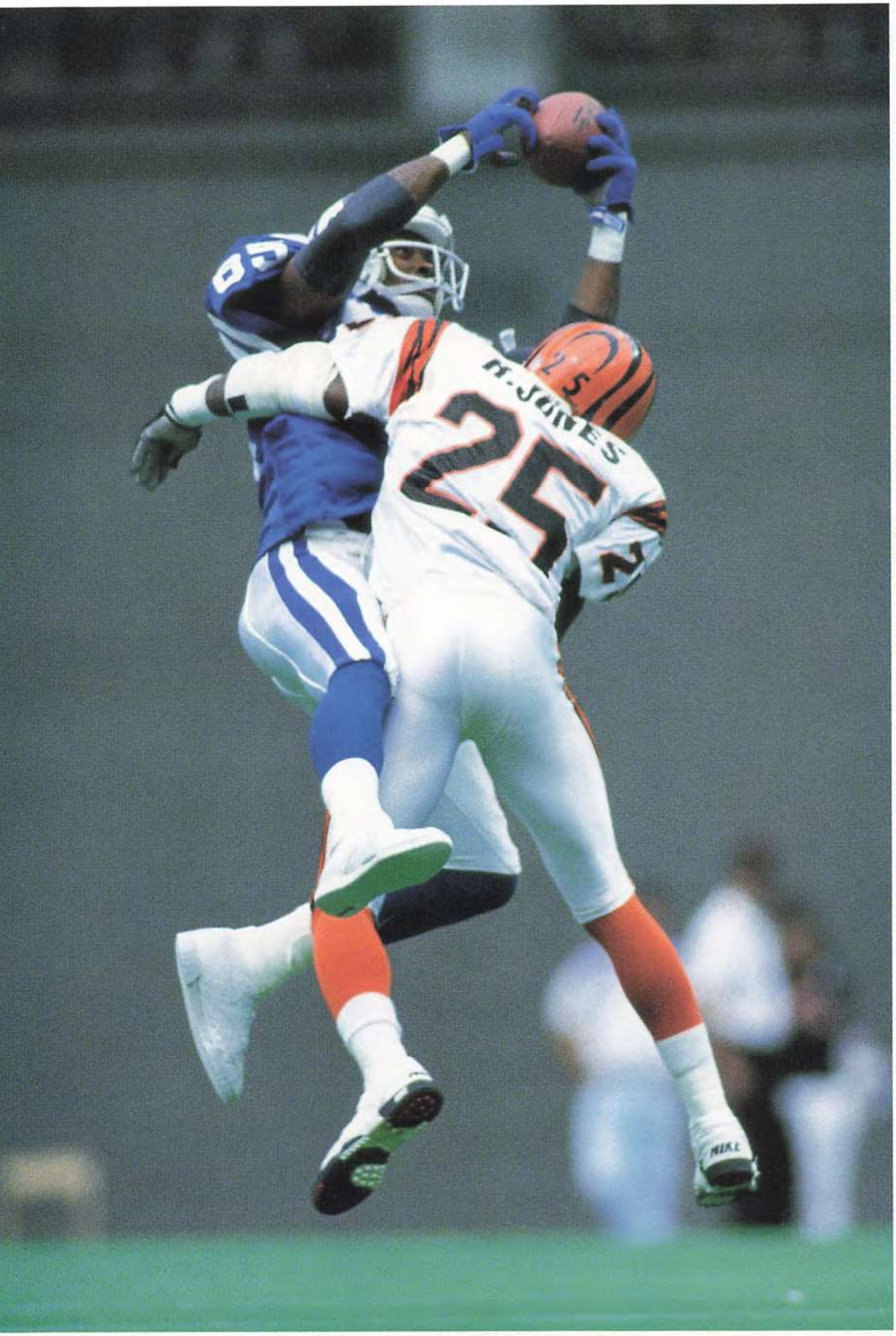


Levitation?

Has Ray Crittenden perfected a form of Eastern meditation that allows him to float in mid-air, or did he just catch a pass moving approximately 900 miles per hour? Or did the New England rookie make a simply fantastic reception against Seattle?

Anna Clarke

GRITTENDEN
81
22
10



Pete J. Groh

BEST SHOTS 1993

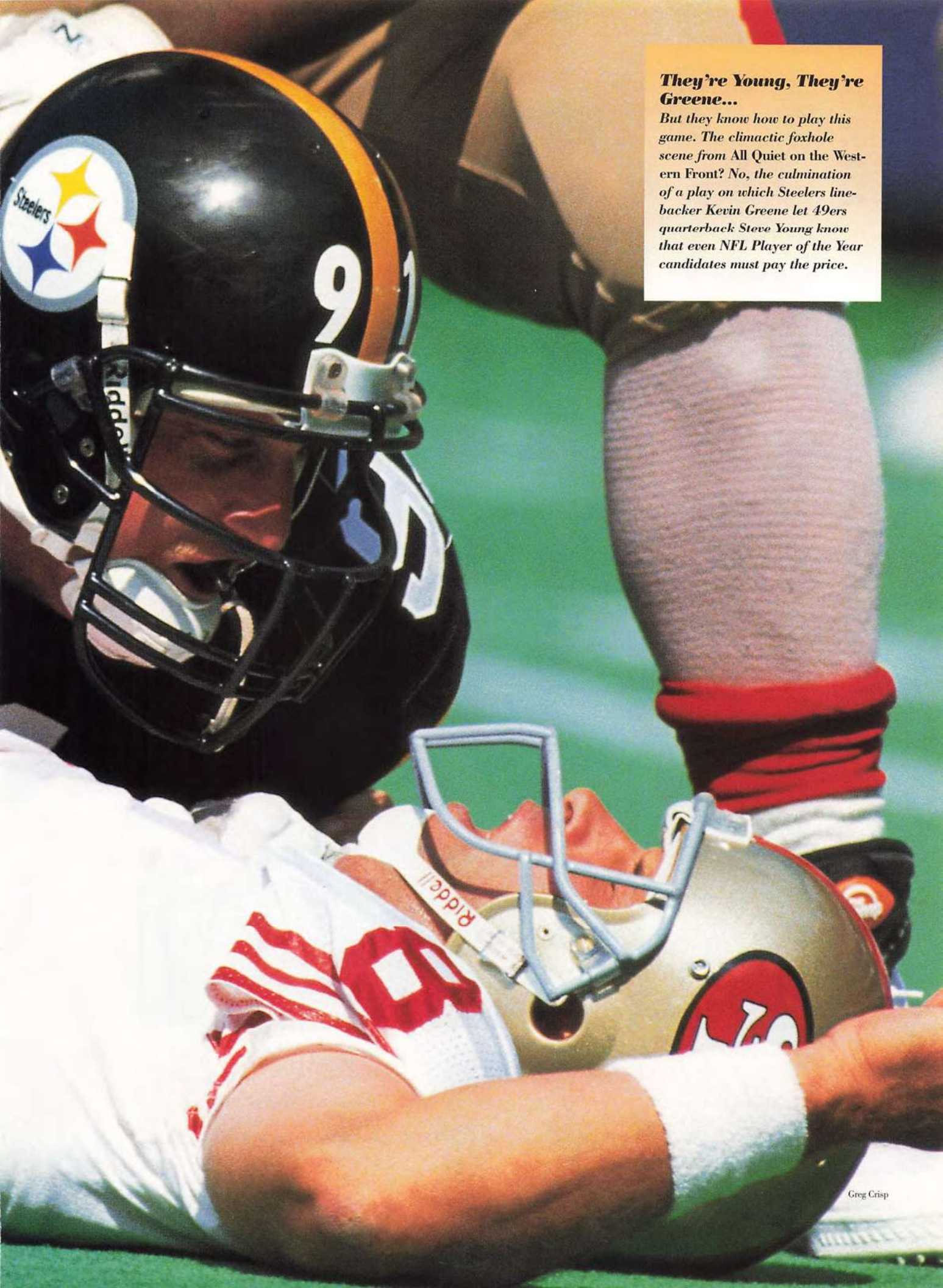
Tangled Messes

All right, count those arms and legs: The heat of NFL battle can produce some tricky contortions. Left: The Colts' Reggie Langhorne and Cincinnati's Rod Jones get snarled. Opposite: Detroit's William White, who really does have a head, is embroiled with the Buccaneers' Horace Copeland.

Andy Hayt

COPELAND
88
21
Reebok

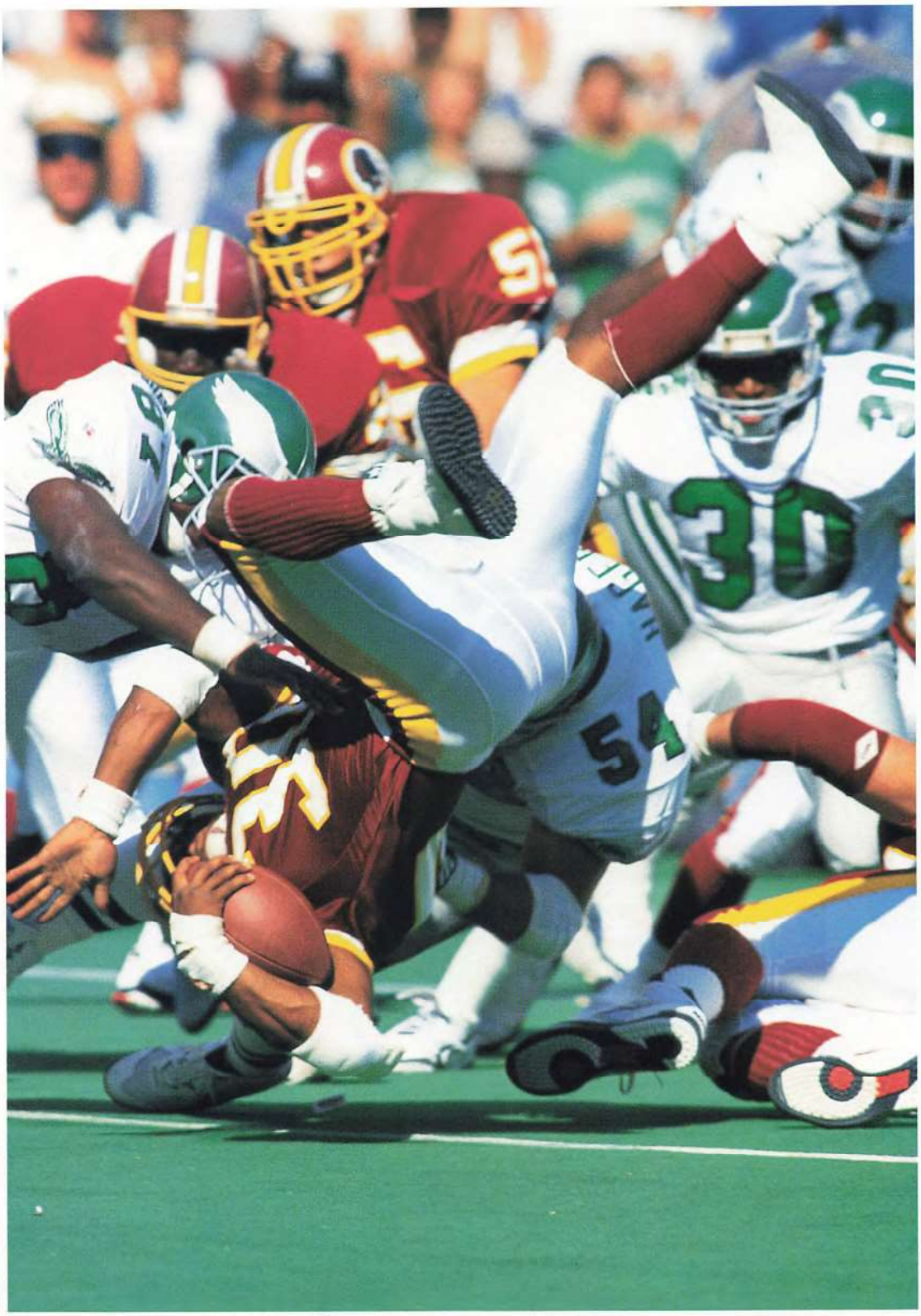
BEST SHOTS
1993
16



They're Young, They're Greene...

But they know how to play this game. The climactic foxhole scene from All Quiet on the Western Front? *No, the culmination of a play on which Steelers linebacker Kevin Greene let 49ers quarterback Steve Young know that even NFL Player of the Year candidates must pay the price.*

Greg Crisp



Scott Cunningham

This Side Up

It was a topsy-turvy year for the Redskins, and running back Brian Mitchell (above) was no exception.

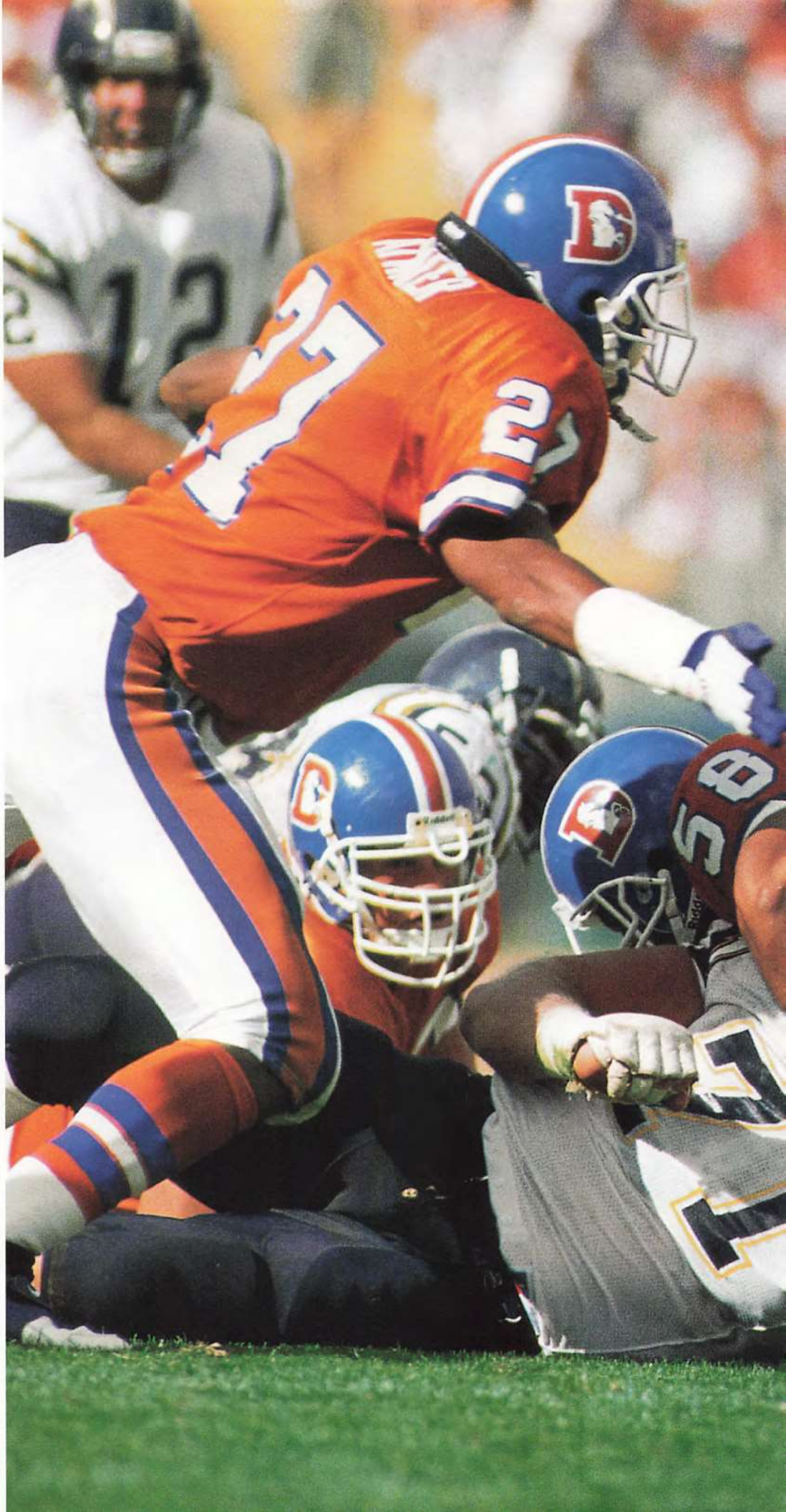
What Bruises a Legend Most?

Joe Montana gets whacked by San Diego's Jerrol Williams (opposite).

Peter Bouillet

Means of Transportation

Natrone Means, the Chargers' 245-pound rookie, threatens to make a Denver omelet of any Bronco brave enough to meet him halfway.



Gaylon Wampler

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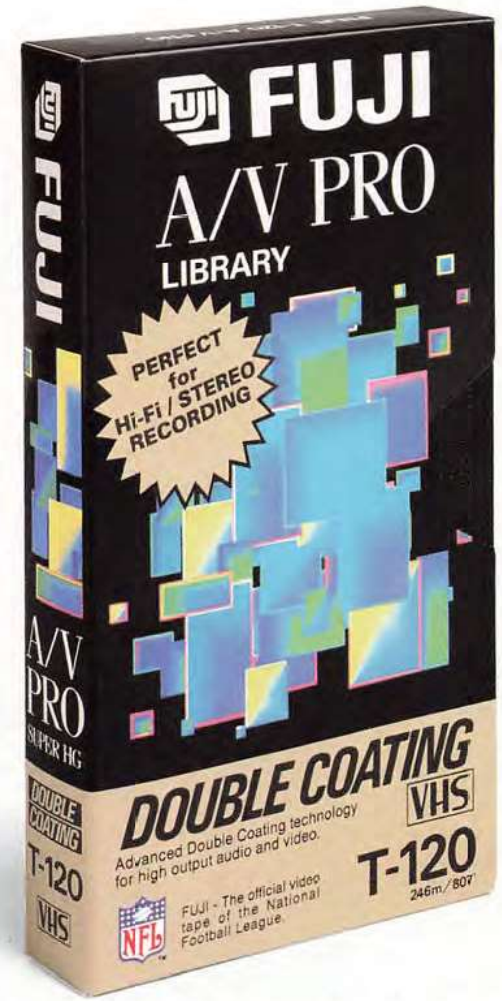

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1993 REPLAY

By Jim Perry

Week-by-Week Review of the 1993 Season in Words and Photographs

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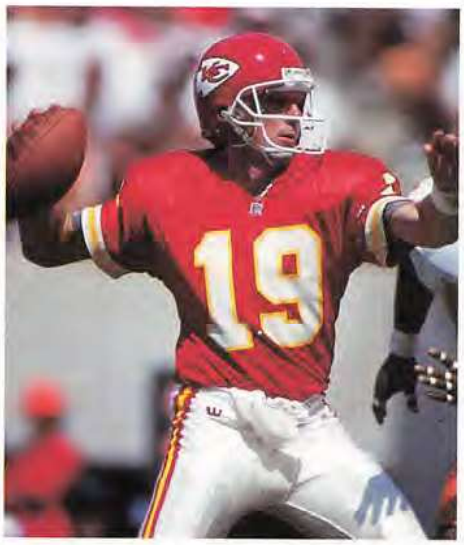
WEEK ONE • *September 5*

DIFFERENT UNIFORM...SAME RESULTS—Joe Montana, who led the San Francisco 49ers to four Super Bowl victories, had moved to Kansas City, but his 37-year-old right arm was still throwing strikes.

In his first regular-season start since 1990 (he missed almost all of the 1991 and 1992 seasons with an elbow injury), Montana passed for 246 yards and 3 touchdowns in less than three quarters to lead the Chiefs past Tampa Bay 27-3. As the NFL kicked off its seventy-fourth season, he completed his first 9 attempts.



Allen Dean Steele

Ex-49er Joe Montana felt right at home in Kansas City, throwing 3 touchdown passes.

Montana's scoring passes went 19 yards to Willie Davis, 50 yards to J.J. Birden, and, on the first play after he sprained his throwing wrist, 12 yards to former Raiders running back Marcus Allen. When his wrist started to swell, Montana left the game late in the third quarter.

NEW QUARTERBACKS, PART II—The Raiders were happy with their new signal caller, too.

Ex-Giant Jeff Hostetler completed 23 of 27 passes as Los Angeles upended the Vikings 24-7. Hostetler completed 18 of his first 19 attempts, including a club-record 15 in a row.

Hostetler hit Tim Brown with a 17-yard touchdown pass just 1:26 into the game, after rookie safety Patrick Bates recovered a fumble at the Minnesota 18 on the opening kickoff.

BIG DAY FOR NEW COACHES—Five new coaches made their debuts on opening day, and three of them won.

Former Denver coach Dan Reeves led the Giants past the Bears and their new coach, Dave Wannstedt, 26-20. Former assistant head coach Richie Petitbon guided Washington to a 35-16 victory over defending Super Bowl-champion Dallas. And former defensive coordinator Wade Phillips coached Denver over the Jets 26-20. Ex-Giants coach Bill Parcells lost to the Bills 38-14 in his first game with the Patriots.

In Chicago, the lead changed hands three times in the fourth quarter, but the Giants held it last as Phil Simms threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to fullback Jarrod Bunch with 1:07 left after a passs interference call against the Bears. The winning drive went 80 yards in 7 plays.

"To say it was a great win is an understatement," Reeves said. "I was excited for our guys, because they hung in there."

One of those guys was linebacker Lawrence Taylor, who slapped the ball away from Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh and then recovered it with 54 seconds left to clinch the game. He also had 1½ sacks.

In Washington, Petitbon's Redskins held the ball for more than 35 minutes against the Cowboys, helped out by a touchdown drive of 99 yards.

"That drive just took our breaths away," Dallas defensive tackle Russell Maryland said.

THEY'RE GETTING THEIR KICKS

Morten Andersen (Saints) and John Carney (Chargers) kept long field-goal streaks alive in leading their teams to victory.

In New Orleans, Andersen kicked 4 field goals to stretch his regular-season streak to an NFL-record-tying 24 in a row as the Saints outscored the Oilers 33-21.

In San Diego, Carney hit a club-record 6 field goals to score all of his team's points in the Chargers' 18-12 victory over Seattle. The big day stretched his streak of successful field goals to 22.

Washington's Brian Mitchell rushed for 116 yards and scored on 1- and 29-yard runs. Mark Rypien threw 3 touchdown passes.

In Denver's victory over the Jets, rookie running back Glyn Milburn caught a 25-yard scoring pass from John Elway, set his own touchdown up with a 50-yard catch, and set up another with a 36-yard punt return. Rookie Jason Elam kicked 4 field goals.

New Jets quarterback Boomer Esiason passed for 371 yards and 2 touchdowns.

For the sixth year in a row, Buffalo won on Opening Day, hammering the Patriots. The Bills led 17-14 after three quarters, then won the fourth 21-0.

"We lost our poise in the fourth quarter," Parcells grumbled.

Buffalo's Jim Kelly had a big day, throwing 4 touchdown passes, including 41-, 22-, and 14-yard strikes to Andre Reed. Thurman Thomas rushed for 114 yards, and rookie Russell Copeland scored on a 47-yard punt return.

SAME OLD MARINO—Trailing 20-17 in Indianapolis, Dan Marino drove the Dolphins 80 yards, hitting his last 8 passes, and beat the Colts 24-20 with a 1-yard pass to tight end Greg Baty with 35 seconds left. It was Marino's twenty-fifth fourth-quarter comeback victory.

Marino also threw 40- and 27-yard touchdown passes to tight end Keith Jackson. His 3 scoring passes gave him 293 in his career, breaking a tie with Johnny Unitas for second (at 290) on the all-time NFL career list. ◆

QUOTE

Raiders running back **Greg Robinson**, analyzing quarterback Jeff Hostetler:

"The huddle is so cool and calm, he makes everybody feel like sitting down and eating dinner."

Mary Rubin

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	1	0	0	N.Y. Giants	1	0	0
Miami	1	0	0	Philadelphia	1	0	0
Indianapolis	0	1	0	Washington	1	0	0
New England	0	1	0	Dallas	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	1	0	Phoenix	0	1	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	1	0	0	Detroit	1	0	0
Cincinnati	0	1	0	Green Bay	1	0	0
Houston	0	1	0	Chicago	0	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	1	0	Minnesota	0	1	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	0	1	0
Denver	1	0	0	NFC West			
Kansas City	1	0	0	New Orleans	1	0	0
L.A. Raiders	1	0	0	San Francisco	1	0	0
San Diego	1	0	0	Atlanta	0	1	0
Seattle	0	1	0	L.A. Rams	0	1	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 38, New England 14
Cleveland 27, Cincinnati 14
Denver 26, N.Y. Jets 20
Miami 24, Indianapolis 20
San Diego 18, Seattle 12

NFC

Detroit 30, Atlanta 13
Green Bay 36, L.A. Rams 6
N.Y. Giants 26, Chicago 20
Philadelphia 23, Phoenix 17
Washington 35, Dallas 16

Interconference

Kansas City 27, Tampa Bay 3
L.A. Raiders 24, Minnesota 7
New Orleans 33, Houston 21
San Francisco 24, Pittsburgh 13

WEEK TWO • *September 12*

FRUSTRATION IN DALLAS—The glory of 1992 was a distant memory.

"Oh-and-two," Dallas Pro Bowl guard Nate Newton moaned. "It hurts, man."

It not only hurt, but there was fear in Dallas it might be too much to overcome for the defending Super Bowl champions. No NFL team ever had started 0-2 and gone to the Super Bowl.

The Cowboys sank to 0-2 by losing their Super Bowl rematch with Buffalo 13-10, despite outgaining the Bills by 164 yards. In January, they had overwhelmed Buffalo 52-17.

The Cowboys, however, were playing without two-time NFL rushing champion Emmitt Smith, who was showing no signs of ending his contract holdout. While Smith stayed home, 4 Dallas turnovers set up all 13 Buffalo points, including Steve Christie's 35-yard, game-winning field goal with 2:49 to go.

Dallas responded by driving 69 yards to the Buffalo 11, but safety Matt Darby made a lunging interception of a deflected pass by Troy Aikman at the 1-yard line with 12 seconds to go.

Rob Rosato

Barry Sanders dazzled the Patriots with 148 rushing yards, but Detroit had to go to overtime to win.

SHOCKER IN WASHINGTON—In a week with four major surprises, the Phoenix Cardinals, who had lost 14 games in a row in the nation's capital, stunned the Redskins 17-10.

"I've walked this field a thousand times [as a former Redskins assistant]," Phoenix coach Joe Bugel said. "It's still one-hundred yards; the grass is still green; there are no gremlins."

Gremlins or not, Washington not only lost the game, but also quarterback Mark Rypien, who suffered a partially torn knee ligament early in the second quarter. Doctors said he would be out three to six weeks.

Johnny Bailey's 58-yard punt return for a touchdown helped get Phoenix off to a 17-0 halftime lead.

SHOCKER II—There was another surprise in Cleveland, where the Browns outscored the 49ers 23-13. The loss snapped San Francisco's nine-game regular-season winning streak.

The 49ers hurt themselves with 4 turnovers and a botched field goal attempt, and had another field goal blocked by defensive end Rob Burnett.

Browns defensive tackle James Jones, who weighs 290 pounds, lined up at fullback to score on a 1-yard run.

SHOCKER III—In Miami, Boomer Esiason, his career revived with the Jets, passed for more than 300 yards for the second week in a row to lead New York past the Dolphins 24-14.

In all, Boomer passed for 323 yards and 2 touchdowns and ran 4 yards for another score. His 20-yard touchdown pass to fullback Pat Chaffey with 4:44 left clinched the game.

SHOCKER IV—In Anaheim, the Rams stunned the defending AFC Central-champion Steelers 27-0 and left them shaking their heads after an 0-2 start.

Rams defensive tackle Sean Gilbert sacked Neil O'Donnell 4 times. Tony Zendejas kicked 2 long field goals—a club-record 54-yarder and a 50-yarder.

LAST GASPS—Four teams—the Eagles, Saints, Lions, and Colts—all won on last-minute or overtime field goals.

The Eagles rallied from a 17-7 fourth-quarter deficit to edge the Packers 20-17 on Roger Ruzek's 30-yard field goal with five seconds left.

Randall Cunningham's scrambling 40-yard touchdown pass to rookie wide receiver Victor Bailey tied the score with 4:14 to go. Cunningham had spent much of the day running from his old teammate, defensive end Reggie White, who sacked him twice and forced him to fumble twice.

Joe Patronite

Safety Matt Darby (43) saved Buffalo's victory over Dallas with a last-minute interception.

In Atlanta, the Saints edged the Falcons 34-31 on Morten Andersen's 44-yard field goal as time expired. Earlier, Andersen had kicked a 27-yard field goal, his twenty-fifth in a row, to break the NFL record he shared with Chicago's Kevin Butler. But he missed attempts from 42 and 50 yards before his winning kick.

In all, the Saints gained a team-record 557 yards, getting 341 yards passing and 3 touchdowns (2 to Quinn Early) from Wade Wilson.

In Foxboro, the Lions trimmed the Patriots 19-16 on rookie Jason Hanson's 38-yard field goal in overtime. Barry Sanders rushed for 148 yards.

In Cincinnati, the Colts squeezed out a 9-6 victory over the Bengals when Dean Biasucci kicked a 42-yard field goal, his third of the game, with three seconds left. ◆

SAY IT AIN'T SO, JOE

In Houston, the Chiefs rested Joe Montana, who had a sprained throwing wrist, and the Oilers jumped all over backup Dave Krieg to win 30-0. Krieg was sacked 4 times, lost 2 snaps from center, and was intercepted twice by safety Marcus Robertson.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	2	0	0	N.Y. Giants	2	0	0
Indianapolis	1	1	0	Philadelphia	2	0	0
Miami	1	1	0	Phoenix	1	1	0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	Washington	1	1	0
New England	0	2	0	Dallas	0	2	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	2	0	0	Detroit	2	0	0
Houston	1	1	0	Green Bay	1	1	0
Cincinnati	0	2	0	Minnesota	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	0	2	0	Chicago	0	2	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	0	2	0
Denver	2	0	0	NFC West			
L.A. Raiders	2	0	0	New Orleans	2	0	0
Kansas City	1	1	0	L.A. Rams	1	1	0
San Diego	1	1	0	San Francisco	1	1	0
Seattle	0	2	0	Atlanta	0	2	0

SCORES

AFC

Denver 34, San Diego 17
Houston 30, Kansas City 0
Indianapolis 9, Cincinnati 6
L.A. Raiders 17, Seattle 13
N.Y. Jets 24, Miami 14

AFC

Minnesota 10, Chicago 7
New Orleans 34, Atlanta 31
N.Y. Giants 23, Tampa Bay 7
Philadelphia 20, Green Bay 17
Phoenix 17, Washington 10

Interconference

Buffalo 13, Dallas 10
Cleveland 23, San Francisco 13
Detroit 19, New England 16 (OT)
L.A. Rams 27, Pittsburgh 0

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Atlanta, 524-2489

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Atlanta, 233-9848

Frankie's Food Sports & Spirits
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Atlanta, 843-9444

Hooters
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Jocks & Jills
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Joey D's Oak Room
1015 Crown Point Parkway, NE
Atlanta, 512-7063

Kobe Steaks
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Atlanta, 256-0810

La Paz
6410 Roswell Road
Atlanta, 256-3555

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Atlanta, 758-4669

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WEEK THREE • *September 19*

THEY'RE GETTING GOOD AT THIS—Note to future opponents of the Eagles: Don't let them have the ball last.

For the second week in a row, the Eagles won in the last few seconds when Randall Cunningham drilled a 10-yard touchdown pass to Calvin Williams in the back of the end zone to beat Washington 34-31. Four seconds remained in the game as the 83-yard drive ended.

"We were confident," Cunningham said later. "I came in the huddle and said, 'We're going to score.' And we went out and did just that."

A lot of people discounted the Eagles before the season, because they lost 11 veteran free agents. But now, at 3-0, they were one of only five unbeaten teams left in the NFL (joining the Browns, Saints, and Giants, all 3-0, and the Bills, 2-0).

In beating Washington, Cunningham passed for 360 yards and ran for 49. Williams, who had 8 receptions for 181 yards, had 3 touchdown catches in all, including 80- and 9-yard plays.

The frustrated Redskins twice led by 11 points as Cary Conklin, making his first start in relief of injured Mark Rypien, threw 3 touchdown passes. Rookie Reggie Brooks rushed for 154 yards and scored on an 85-yard run.

WELCOME BACK, EMMITT

It was a good week for the Cowboys.

First, two-time NFL rushing champion Emmitt Smith ended his holdout and signed a contract three days before the game. Then, with this psychological boost, the defending Super Bowl champions took a 17-0 lead and beat Phoenix 17-10. It was Dallas's first victory of the year.

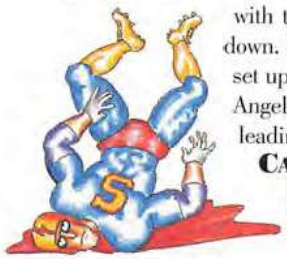
Rookie Derrick Lassic, who had been starting for Smith, rushed for 60 yards and scored twice. Smith entered the game in the third quarter and ran for 45 yards on 8 carries.

A GREAT JOB OF RELIEF PITCHING—In Los Angeles, the unbeaten Raiders took a 16-3 lead over the unbeaten Browns when Jeff Jaeger kicked a 53-yard field goal with only 4:58 left.

But Vinny Testaverde, who replaced Bernie Kosar at quarterback early in the fourth quarter, rallied Cleveland for a stunning 19-16 victory. He passed for 159 yards and a touchdown and ran twice for 15 yards.

"To let a team come back like that and beat us is just uncalled for," Raiders defensive tackle Nolan Harrison said. "We're like wounded animals."

The final wound was Eric Metcalf's 1-yard sweep around left end with two seconds left for the winning touchdown. Metcalf's 37-yard return of a free kick set up the winning score. That came after Los Angeles intentionally gave up a safety while leading 16-10.



CAGING THE LIONS—The unbeaten Saints held the Lions to 9 first downs and 165 yards to win 14-3.

Linebacker Rickey Jackson set up a touchdown with 1 of his 2 fumble recoveries and also had a sack. Linebacker Renaldo Turnbull had 3 sacks and 3 forced fumbles.

Wade Wilson threw 2 touchdown passes, and rookie Derek Brown ran for 121 yards.

JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS—In his first season as coach, Dan Reeves had the Giants off to a fast start. With Rodney Hampton rushing for 134 yards, New York stopped the Rams 20-10 to remain unbeaten.

Marv Rubin

QUOTE

Saints coach **Jim Mora**, marveling at Detroit running back Barry Sanders:

"He'd make Superman miss tackles."

STANDINGS							
AFC East	**W**	**L**	**T**	**NFC East**	**W**	**L**	**T**
Buffalo	2	0	0	N.Y. Giants	3	0	0
Indianapolis	1	1	0	Philadelphia	3	0	0
Miami	1	1	0	Dallas	1	2	0
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	Phoenix	1	2	0
New England	0	3	0	Washington	1	2	0
AFC Central				**NFC Central**			
Cleveland	3	0	0	Detroit	2	1	0
Houston	1	2	0	Green Bay	1	1	0
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	Minnesota	1	1	0
Cincinnati	0	3	0	Chicago	0	2	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	0	2	0
Denver	2	1	0	**NFC West**			
Kansas City	2	1	0	New Orleans	3	0	0
L.A. Raiders	2	1	0	San Francisco	2	1	0
San Diego	2	1	0	L.A. Rams	1	2	0
Seattle	1	2	0	Atlanta	0	3	0

SCORES

AFC

Cleveland 19, L.A. Raiders 16
Kansas City 15, Denver 7
Pittsburgh 34, Cincinnati 7
San Diego 18, Houston 17
Seattle 17, New England 14

NFC

Dallas 17, Phoenix 10
New Orleans 14, Detroit 3
N.Y. Giants 20, L.A. Rams 10
Philadelphia 34, Washington 31
San Francisco 37, Atlanta 30

As they used to do under Bill Parcells, the Giants controlled the ball on offense (for more than 43 minutes) and played tight defense. Cornerback Mark Collins grabbed a pass that bounced off the hands of L.A. running back Tim Lester and returned it 50 yards for a touchdown.

Bob Rosato

Junior Seau set up 2 field goals with interception returns as the Chargers won.

CHARGERS WIN BY A FOOT—For the second time in three weeks, San Diego's John Carney scored all 18 of his team's points as he beat the Oilers 18-17 with 6 field goals.

His final kick of the game, from 27 yards, won it with three seconds left.

In week 1, Carney also made 6 field goals as San Diego turned back Seattle 18-12. He now had kicked 29 in a row, snapping the Saints' Morten Andersen's NFL record of 25, set only the week before.

NEW BATTERY: YOUNG TO YOUNG—Nobody had trouble scoring touchdowns in San Francisco, where the 49ers outscored the Falcons 37-30.

In fact, losing quarterback Bobby Hebert threw 12-, 3-, and 16-yard touchdown passes to Andre Rison, while Erric Pegram rushed for 192 yards. But the 49ers' Steve Young not only threw 3 touchdown passes of his own, he also completed a 6-yard pass to himself that set up another touchdown.

The creative play took place late in the third quarter when Young threw a pass that bounced off Atlanta cornerback Vinnie Clark. The ball came right back to Young, who caught it and ran to the Falcons' 2-yard line. On the next play, Ricky Watters scored for a 23-20 lead.

"I wasn't sure if the catch was legal," Young said later. "I first thought I was going to be penalized." ◆

WEEK FOUR • *September 26*

THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN—Five seconds showed on the scoreboard when Morten Andersen's 49-yard field goal soared through the uprights.

Andersen's crushing kick not only gave the Saints a 16-13 victory over the 49ers, it left them two games ahead of their division rivals, and, at 4-0, gave them the best record in the NFL. It also proved they could beat the 49ers in a big game. They had lost eight of their last 10 to San Francisco.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Dan Marino passed for 282 yards as Miami won an AFC East showdown with the Bills.

The 49ers played without four injured defensive starters, but Ricky Watters rushed for 135 yards to keep San Francisco alive. The Saints' Wade Wilson had to lead a 45-yard drive in the last 1:08 to break a tie and set up the winning kick.

On defense, New Orleans sacked Steve Young 6 times—3 by linebacker Rickey Jackson. Linebacker Vaughan Johnson had 22 tackles and forced a fumble.

DOLPHINS RAIN ON BILLS—In Buffalo, rain fell and the wind blew…but the Dolphins ignored them.

With Dan Marino passing for 282 yards, Miami controlled the ball for more than 39 minutes and beat the Bills on the road for the second year in a row, 22-13. The Dolphins led 19-0 early in the second quarter.

Despite losing at home in 1992, the Bills had beaten the Dolphins in 12 of their last 14 meetings.

"Everybody thought we were cream puffs," Miami linebacker Bryan Cox said. "So we took it away from them right in the beginning."

Marino moved past Johnny Unitas in career passing yardage, finishing with 40,306 yards, third in NFL history. (Fran Tarkenton is the leader with 47,003.) Buffalo's Steve Christie hit a club-record 59-yard field goal on the last play of the first half, equaling the third-longest kick in NFL history.

NO SEPTEMBER SWOON THIS TIME—The Colts handed the Browns their first loss of the season, 23-10—and for the first time since 1977, they had a winning record (2-1) in September.

Colts linebacker Duane Bickett had 3 of his team's 5 sacks.

DID HE ALSO PUMP UP THE BALLS?—Rod Woodson was all over the place as the Steelers routed the Falcons 45-17 on Monday night.

The Steelers' cornerback returned 2 kickoffs for 62 yards, 2 punts for 42 yards, and also had 2 interceptions and 4 tackles.

Cornerback Rod Woodson had a big game in Pittsburgh's rout of Atlanta.

Joe Patronite

Running back Barry Foster enjoyed himself, too, scoring 3 touchdowns, including a 30-yard run.

IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL IT'S OVER—In Minneapolis, the Vikings stunned the Packers 15-13 with an unlikely rally in the final seconds. Fuad Reveiz won the game with his fifth field goal of the day—from 22 yards with four seconds left.

Reveiz's winning kick was set up by Jim McMahon's 45-yard, third-down pass to rookie free agent Eric Guliford, a 5-foot 8-inch wide receiver and punt returner taking part in his first NFL play from scrimmage.

Guliford, who had replaced fellow rookie Qadry Ismail, caught McMahon's pass, and, as he was about to be tackled, stepped out of bounds at the Packers' 5 to stop the clock.

"Qadry had come out of the game, because he needed a [rest]," Guliford said later. "But no coaches sent me in. [Wide receiver] Cris Carter just kind of waved me in."

THEIR GENEROSITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS—Tampa Bay played Santa Claus, turning the ball over 7 times to help rookie coach Dave Wannstedt earn his first NFL victory as the Bears routed the Buccaneers 47-17.

The 7 turnovers (4 interceptions and 3 fumbles) set up 27 Chicago points. Meanwhile, Neal Anderson rushed for 104 yards and a touchdown, Jim Harbaugh passed for 2 touchdowns and ran for a third, and Kevin Butler kicked 4 field goals.

TWO IN A ROW—The Seahawks won successive games for the first time in two years, rallying to beat winless Cincinnati 19-10.

Seattle trailed 10-9 with 4:38 left when linebacker Kevin Murphy hit Bengals running back Harold Green in the Cincinnati end zone. As Green was falling, linebacker Rod Stephens stripped the ball and fell on it for the go-ahead touchdown. ◆

THINGS ARE BOOMING FOR THE JETS

Traded by Cincinnati in the offseason, Boomer Esiason had found new life with the New York Jets.

After three games, the 32-year-old left-handed quarterback led the NFL in passing efficiency (111.5). He dazzled the Patriots in a 45-7 victory.

Boomer hit his first 13 passes of the game to run his streak to a club-record 18 in a row. He wound up 17 of 21 for the day.

"I like to come to work," Boomer said of life with his new team.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	2	1	0	N.Y. Giants	3	0	0
Miami	2	1	0	Philadelphia	3	0	0
Indianapolis	2	1	0	Dallas	1	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	Washington	1	2	0
New England	0	4	0	Phoenix	1	3	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	3	1	0	Detroit	3	1	0
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	Minnesota	2	1	0
Houston	1	3	0	Chicago	1	2	0
Cincinnati	0	4	0	Green Bay	1	2	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	0	3	0
Denver	2	1	0	NFC West			
Kansas City	2	1	0	New Orleans	4	0	0
L.A. Raiders	2	1	0	L.A. Rams	2	2	0
San Diego	2	1	0	San Francisco	2	2	0
Seattle	2	2	0	Atlanta	0	4	0

SCORES

AFC
Indianapolis 23, Cleveland 10
Miami 22, Buffalo 13
N.Y. Jets 45, New England 7
Seattle 19, Cincinnati 10
NFC
Chicago 47, Tampa Bay 17
Detroit 26, Phoenix 20
Minnesota 15, Green Bay 13
New Orleans 16, San Francisco 13
Interconference
L.A. Rams 28, Houston 13
Pittsburgh 45, Atlanta 17

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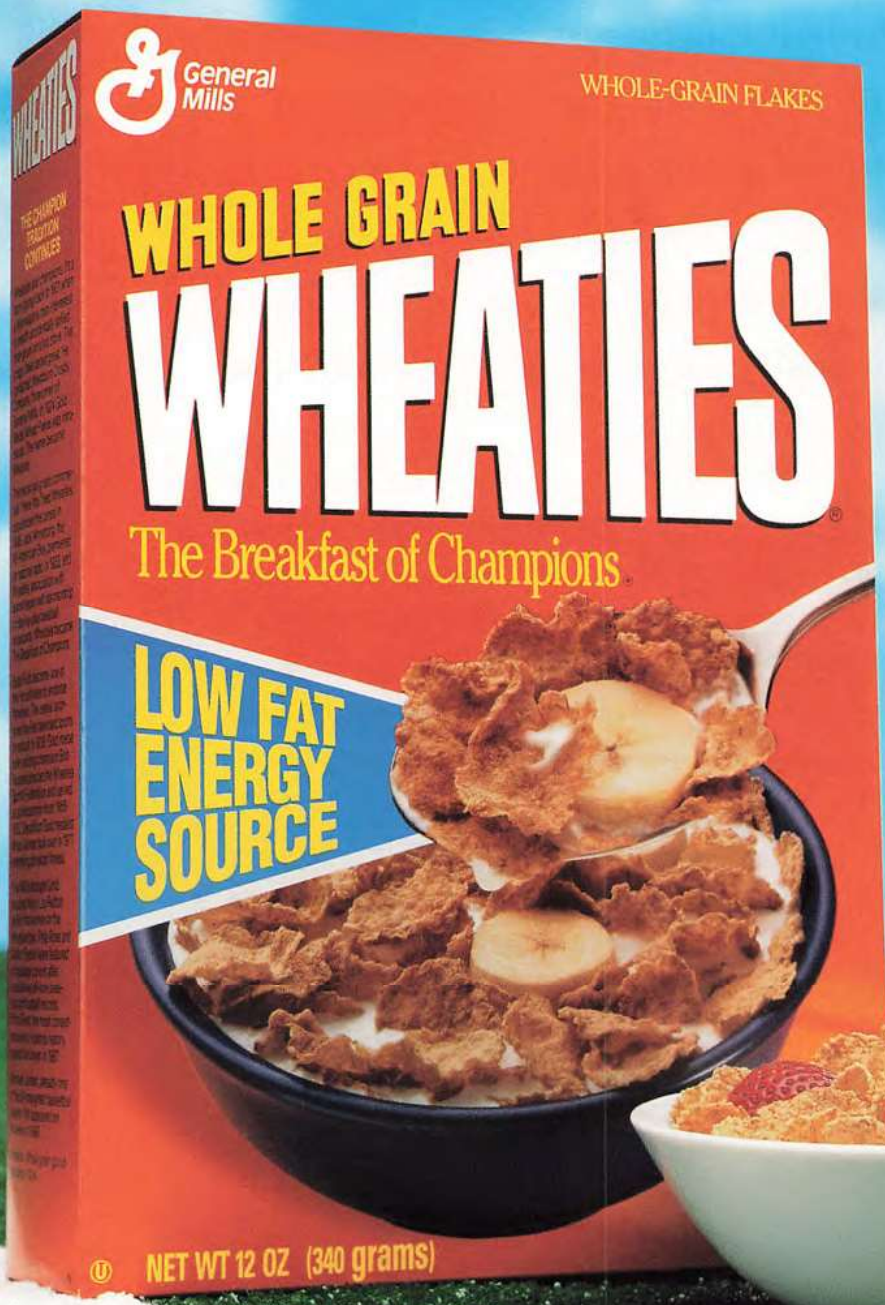

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WEEK FIVE • *October 3*

THE AMAZIN' EAGLES—Ravaged by free-agent defections, wounded by injuries, and trailing by 10 or more points in their last three games, the Eagles were off to a 4-0 start.

In their latest hair-raising episode, they rallied from a 21-0 deficit to outscore the Jets 35-30 at the Meadowlands. And they did it despite losing quarterback Randall Cunningham for up to three months with a broken leg and wide receiver Fred Barnett for the season with a torn knee ligament.

"I've seen teams that are behind play with confidence before," said backup quarterback Bubby Brister, who replaced Cunningham, "but not like that. This team is definitely special."

Before coming back against the Jets, the Eagles had to overcome 10- and 11-point deficits to beat the Packers and Redskins in the final five seconds. Then they beat New York on a remarkable interception return by cornerback Eric Allen.

Marv Rubin

Midway through the fourth quarter, the Jets were leading 30-28 and driving, when Boomer Esiason—who had thrown 4 touchdown passes (3 to tight end Johnny Mitchell)—was intercepted by Allen at Philadelphia's 6-yard line. The Pro Bowl cornerback skittered back and forth through what seemed like the Jets' entire 45-man roster on his 94-yard return for a touchdown.

Brister kept the Eagles in contention earlier after replacing Cunningham with New York leading 21-7. He threw touchdown passes to Mark Bavaro and Calvin Williams, and led another 87-yard touchdown drive.

QUOTE

Detroit coach **Wayne Fontes**, after his team was suprised by Tampa Bay 27-10:

"They were like a big, sleeping dog."

THE OTHER UNBEATEN TEAM—It was much easier for the unbeaten Saints, who improved their record to 5-0 with a 37-6 rout of the Rams.

Wade Wilson threw a pair of touchdown passes, including a 30-yard toss to Patrick Newman that bounced off the hands of safety Anthony Newman (no relation). Rookie Tyrone Hughes returned a punt 74 yards for a touchdown and took another one back 20 yards to set up a field goal.

KELLY WRECKS THE GIANTS—Heading into week 5, the Giants also were unbeaten, but they fell when Buffalo rallied for a 17-14 victory on Jim Kelly's 8-yard touchdown pass to tight end Pete Metzelaars with 2:27 left.

Kelly marched his team 73 yards for the winning score after cornerback Nate Odomes intercepted Simms, 1 of 3 steals off the Giants' quarterback.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	3	1	0
Miami	3	1	0
Indianapolis	2	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0
New England	0	4	0
AFC Central			
Cleveland	3	1	0
Pittsburgh	2	2	0
Houston	1	3	0
Cincinnati	0	4	0
AFC West			
Denver	3	1	0
Kansas City	3	1	0
Seattle	3	2	0
L.A. Raiders	2	2	0
San Diego	2	2	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Philadelphia	4	0	0
N.Y. Giants	3	1	0
Dallas	2	2	0
Phoenix	1	3	0
Washington	1	3	0
NFC Central			
Detroit	3	2	0
Chicago	2	2	0
Minnesota	2	2	0
Green Bay	1	3	0
Tampa Bay	1	3	0
NFC West			
New Orleans	5	0	0
San Francisco	3	2	0
L.A. Rams	2	3	0
Atlanta	0	5	0

SCORES

AFC
Denver 35, Indianapolis 13
Kansas City 24, L.A. Raiders 9
Seattle 31, San Diego 14
AFC
Chicago 6, Atlanta 0
Dallas 36, Green Bay 14
New Orleans 37, L.A. Rams 6
San Francisco 38, Minnesota 19
Tampa Bay 27, Detroit 10
Interconference
Buffalo 17, N.Y. Giants 14
Miami 17, Washington 10
Philadelphia 35, N.Y. Jets 30

Safety Henry Jones also intercepted a pass that bounced off the hands of Giants tight end Howard Cross and sped 85 yards for Buffalo's first touchdown. The Bills got another boost from Thurman Thomas, who rushed for 122 yards.

BACK IN THE GROOVE—Dallas reached .500 by scoring on eight of its first nine possessions to rip the Packers 36-14.

Emmitt Smith, his long holdout a distant memory, made his first start and ran for 71 yards, scoring on a 22-yard run. Troy Aikman passed for 317 yards, Michael Irvin caught a 61-yard touchdown pass, and Eddie Murray kicked a club-record-tying 5 field goals.

FAST STARTERS—In Denver, the Broncos sprinted to a 28-0 second-quarter lead and pounded Indianapolis 35-13. They scored on their first four possessions, with John Elway passing for 2 touchdowns, and Robert Delpino and Rod Bernstine each running for scores.

MONTANA'S SHORT BUT PRODUCTIVE DAY—In Kansas City, Joe Montana threw touchdown passes to climax each of the Chiefs' first two series—including a 1-yard lob on a tackle-eligible play to Joe Valerio—and the Chiefs went on to beat the Raiders 24-9.

Montana was on his way to directing the Chiefs to another score when he had to leave with a pulled hamstring. Dave Krieg finished the drive by handing off to Marcus Allen, who scored the 100th touchdown of his NFL career on a 4-yard run.

On defense, end Neil Smith sacked the Raiders' Vince Evans 4 times and forced a fumble.

HOW ABOUT KICKING AWAY FROM HIM?—In San Francisco, Dexter Carter returned 5 punts for 131 yards, including one of 72 yards for a touchdown, and 3 kickoffs for 64 yards as the 49ers beat the Vikings 38-19.

"That's my spotlight—and I don't have too many of them right now," said the former starter at running back. "I'm going to try my best on every one of them." ◆

HOW 'BOUT THOSE SEAHAWKS?

In 1992, Seattle went 2-14 to tie for the worst record in the NFL. Five games into the new season, the Seahawks were 3-2 after winning their third in a row.

They reached that lofty perch by manhandling the Chargers 31-14 as rookie Rick Mirer passed for 282 yards and a touchdown and scored on a 2-yard run.

"He's a right-handed Steve Young," Chargers cornerback Donald Frank said.

San Diego's John Carney missed a 48-yard field goal, which ended his NFL-record streak of 29 in a row.

Ali Jorge

Kansas City's Marcus Allen scored the 100th touchdown of his career.

WEEK SIX • *October 10*

INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN GOES DOWN—For a team dreaming of the Super Bowl, it was a devastating setback.

Pro Bowl quarterback Dan Marino, who had started every Miami non-strike game since September 2, 1984—a streak of 145 games—was lost for the season. He suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon in the Dolphins' 24-14 victory in Cleveland.

"Sometimes you take it for granted," Marino said. "You go out there and play every Sunday and nothing happens. Then, all of a sudden when something does, it's a shock."

It was a shock for coach Don Shula, too. Shula would have to resume his chase of a playoff berth with 25-year-old Scott Mitchell, who had thrown only 8 NFL passes before Marino's injury. But the coach already was looking ahead.

Dave Cross

Miami quarterback Dan Marino, who had started 145 games in a row, was lost for the season.

"Dan's out and Scott's the guy now," Shula said. "He's a very bright guy, and we've got confidence in him. He's only been in there a couple of times under the gun, but he's performed well."

After a rocky start, he performed well against the Browns. On the very first play after Marino's second-quarter injury, Mitchell threw an interception that Cleveland cornerback Najee Mustafaa took 97 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown and a 14-10 Browns lead.

HOME WASN'T SWEET

Dan Reeves's reinvigorated Giants were now 4-1.

Scoring on their first four possessions, the Giants routed the Redskins 41-7 to hand them their worst loss ever in RFK Stadium. It also was Washington's fourth loss in a row.

Backup running back Lewis Tillman of New York ran for 104 yards and a touchdown, while Phil Simms threw 3 touchdown passes. Mike Sherrard caught a 55-yard scoring pass from Simms and one of 42 yards from running back David Meggett.

But the young quarterback bounced back to throw second-half touchdown passes to Tony Martin (19 yards) and Keith Jackson (3 yards) to win the game. Miami's defense helped out with 6 sacks, including 3 by end Jeff Cross.

BRISTER'S OFF DAY—New Orleans, which had the week off, was the only unbeaten team left in the NFL after the 4-0 Eagles were rushed off their feet by the Bears.

In winning their third game in a row, the Bears sacked Bubby Brister 7 times, intercepted him twice, and recovered his 2 fumbles to surprise Philadelphia 17-6.

"Any time you get to the quarterback early, he kind of gets his mind off what he's doing," Bears defensive end Richard Dent said. Dent had 2 sacks and an interception that set up a field goal.

SAVED BY THE BELL—In Los Angeles, the Jets were wondering just what they had to do to win a game.

One week after losing a 21-0 second-quarter lead and the game to the Eagles, they jumped ahead of the Raiders 17-0 in the second quarter, but lost again, 24-20. The Raiders' Nick Bell charged into the end zone from the 1-yard line with four seconds left for the winning touchdown. It came at the end of a 72-yard drive led by 38-year-old backup quarterback Vince Evans.

Evans had been summoned off the bench in the second quarter to replace Jeff Hostetler, who had 3 turnovers, including safety Brian Washington's 62-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Finding himself down 17-0, Evans threw long touchdown passes to rookie James Jett (42 yards) and Alexander Wright (68) and pulled the Raiders even at 17-17. New York went back in front 20-17 on Cary Blanchard's short field goal with 4:29 left.

Richard Dent had 2 of the Bears' 7 sacks against the Eagles' Bubby Brister.

HERE COME THE COWBOYS—Off to an 0-2 start without holdout running back Emmitt Smith, Dallas had won three in a row since his return.

As Smith rushed for 104 yards and scored on a 20-yard run, the Cowboys overpowered the Colts 27-3 in Indianapolis. The Dallas defense forced 5 turnovers, including 2 interceptions by safety Thomas Everett.

REGGIE! REGGIE! REGGIE!—In Green Bay, the Packers, who had lost three games in a row, scored on all six first-half possessions for a 30-7 halftime lead over Denver. Then they had to hang on desperately to win 30-27.

Denver had a third-and-10 play on the Packers' 43 with less than two minutes left. But defensive end Reggie White sacked the Broncos' John Elway for 8- and 14-yard losses on successive plays to clinch the victory. Elway had completed a career-high 33 of 59 passes for 367 yards.

"It felt great," said White, who had 3 sacks in all. "Now I can go to sleep. I haven't had any sleep in three weeks." ◆

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0	N.Y. Giants	4	1	0
Miami	4	1	0	Philadelphia	4	1	0
Indianapolis	2	3	0	Dallas	3	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	Phoenix	1	4	0
New England	1	4	0	Washington	1	4	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	3	2	0	Chicago	3	2	0
Pittsburgh	3	2	0	Detroit	3	2	0
Houston	1	4	0	Minnesota	3	2	0
Cincinnati	0	5	0	Green Bay	2	3	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	1	4	0
Kansas City	4	1	0	NFC West			
Denver	3	2	0	New Orleans	5	0	0
L.A. Raiders	3	2	0	San Francisco	3	2	0
Seattle	3	2	0	L.A. Rams	2	3	0
San Diego	2	3	0	Atlanta	0	5	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 35, Houston 7
Kansas City 17, Cincinnati 15
L.A. Raiders 24, N.Y. Jets 20
Miami 24, Cleveland 14
Pittsburgh 16, San Diego 3

NFC

Chicago 17, Philadelphia 6
Minnesota 15, Tampa Bay 0
N.Y. Giants 41, Washington 7

Interconference

Dallas 27, Indianapolis 3
Green Bay 30, Denver 27
New England 23, Phoenix 21

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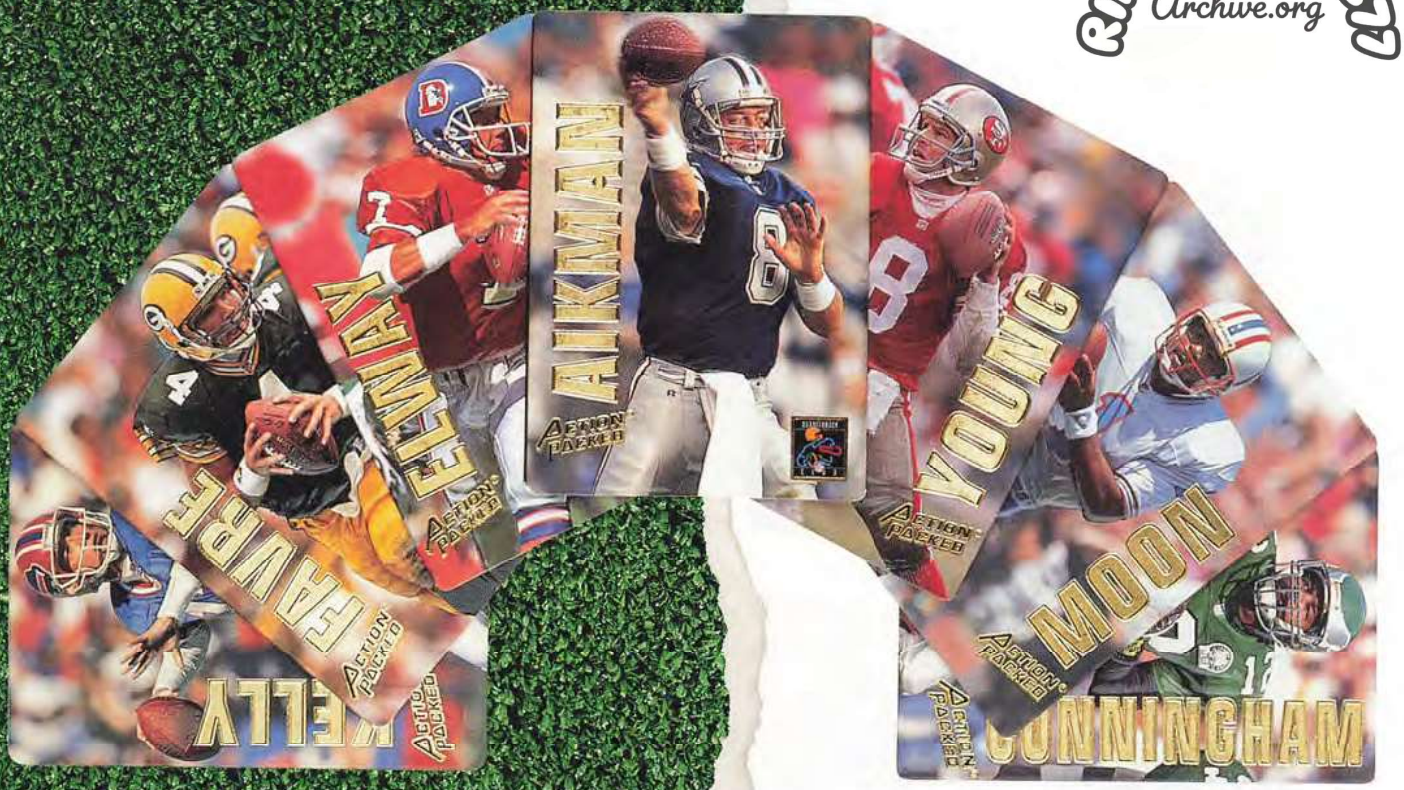

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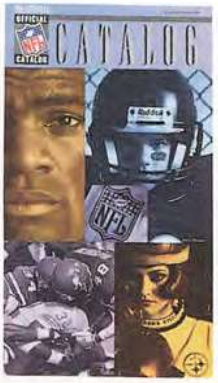

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WEEK SEVEN • *October 14*

STEEL CURTAIN REVISITED—For Pittsburgh, it was like reliving the past.

For New Orleans, it was a shocking loss in the present.

At 5-0, the Saints were the NFL's last unbeaten team, but the Steelers, playing like the team that dominated the NFL in the 1970s, burst to a stunning 37-0 lead and won 37-14. It was Pittsburgh's fourth win in a row.

Al Messerschmidt

Cornerback Rod Woodson led a fierce Pittsburgh defensive charge.

The Steelers' defense forced 5 turnovers to set up 24 points, sacked Wade Wilson 5 times, and held the NFL's top rushing attack to 49 yards. New Orleans had 1 first down in the first half.

"If we're not the NFL's best defense, we're right there," said Steelers cornerback Rod Woodson.

If Woodson isn't the NFL's best cornerback, he's right there, too. In the second minute of the first quarter, he returned an interception 63 yards for Pittsburgh's first touchdown. Four minutes later, he made a diving interception that led to Barry Foster's 20-yard touchdown reception on a screen pass from Neil O'Donnell for a quick 14-0 lead.

When Foster, who rushed for 75 yards and another score, left with a bruised shoulder, Leroy Thompson came in to gain 101 yards.

Act I, Scene I—Reprise—At 5-1, the Kansas City Chiefs were off to their best start since 1971. Give a lot of credit to Joe Montana.

In the four games Montana had played (he missed two with injuries), the Chiefs were 4-0, including their 17-14, come-from-behind victory over San Diego in week 7. It was the twenty-seventh fourth-quarter comeback victory of Montana's career.

With the Chiefs trailing 14-10, Marcus Allen scored the winning touchdown at the end of Montana's 80-yard drive on a 1-yard run with 1:57 left. He set up the score with an 18-yard dash around left end.

"When your leader doesn't show any signs of concern, why should you?" Allen said of Montana's calmness on the game-winning drive.

The drive followed defensive end Neil Smith's block of John Carney's 31-yard field goal attempt with 3:27 left. It was Smith's second blocked field goal of the afternoon.

SUPER SUB—In his first four years in the league, running back Lewis Tillman of the Giants never had rushed for more than 290 yards in a season.

In the last two weeks, he rushed for 273.

Tillman, again subbing for injured Rodney Hampton, bolted through the Eagles for 169 yards and scored on 1- and 10-yard runs as the Giants snapped their five-game losing streak against Philadelphia, 21-10.

"When we get Rodney back, we'll have a great situation," Giants coach Dan Reeves said. "Lewis is a determined runner who can break tackles, because his legs are always moving. He has great acceleration and can get himself out of trouble very quickly."

SUPER SUB II—For three games in a row, backup Vinny Testaverde had relieved struggling Browns quarterback Bernie Kosar. Finally awarded a start against Cincinnati, Testaverde threw 3 touchdown passes as Cleveland won 28-17 to keep the Bengals (0-6) winless.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Joe Montana rallied the Chiefs to a 17-14 victory over San Diego.

IN GOOD HANDS WITH IRVIN—In a rematch of last year's NFC title game, the Cowboys outscored the 49ers 26-17 to win their fourth game in a row.

Kicker Eddie Murray (4 field goals) was the leading scorer, but wide receiver Michael Irvin was the Cowboy who really gunned down the 49ers.

The 6-2, 205-pound Irvin caught 12 passes for 168 yards, including the 36-yard, third-quarter touchdown pass from Troy Aikman that gave Dallas the lead for good at 23-17.

"I love big games like this today," Irvin said. "It's what you live for. It's easy. Just pitch and catch."

SUPER SUB III—With starter Bobby Hebert out with an injured elbow, Billy Joe Tolliver fired 3 touchdown passes, including shots of 21 and 42 yards to Andre Rison, to lead Atlanta to a 30-24 victory over the Rams. The Falcons' first victory came on coach Jerry Glanville's fifty-second birthday. ◆

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	4	1	0	N.Y. Giants	5	1	0
Miami	4	1	0	Dallas	4	2	0
Indianapolis	2	3	0	Philadelphia	4	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	3	0	Phoenix	2	4	0
New England	1	5	0	Washington	1	5	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	4	2	0	Detroit	4	2	0
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	Chicago	3	2	0
Houston	2	4	0	Minnesota	3	2	0
Cincinnati	0	6	0	Green Bay	2	3	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	1	4	0
Kansas City	5	1	0	NFC West			
L.A. Raiders	4	2	0	New Orleans	5	1	0
Denver	3	3	0	San Francisco	3	3	0
Seattle	3	3	0	L.A. Rams	2	4	0
San Diego	2	4	0	Atlanta	1	5	0

SCORES

AFC

Cleveland 28, Cincinnati 17
Houston 28, New England 14
Kansas City 17, San Diego 14
L.A. Raiders 23, Denver 20

NFC

Atlanta 30, L.A. Rams 24
Dallas 26, San Francisco 17
N.Y. Giants 21, Philadelphia 10
Phoenix 36, Washington 6

Interconference

Detroit 30, Seattle 10
Pittsburgh 37, New Orleans 14

PUTTING HIS BEST FOOT FORWARD

After missing his first field goal of the season, Raiders kicker Jeff Jaeger had made 10 in a row. None was bigger than his 53-yard low line drive that went over the crossbar with 16 seconds left to beat Denver 23-20.

"I didn't think it was going to make it," Raiders quarterback Jeff Hostetler said later. "Maybe I prayed it through."

Besides praying, Hostetler threw touchdown passes to Alexander Wright and the aptly named James Jett, who turned Hostetler's 12-yard pass into a 74-yard score. The victory was the Raiders' seventh in their last eight games with the Broncos.

In defeat, John Elway rallied Denver from a 13-0 halftime deficit to a brief 17-13 lead in the fourth quarter, despite being sacked 7 times.

WEEK EIGHT • *October 24*

TWO OF A KIND—The night before the Browns played, Toronto's Joe Carter won the World Series with a ninth-inning home run that brought his team from behind. Eric Metcalf could relate to that.

"I kind of feel like Joe Carter," he said with a smile.

Metcalf did his Carter imitation with 2:05 left in the game when he brought the Browns from behind with a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown that shocked Pittsburgh 28-23 in a battle for first place in the AFC Central Division.

Metcalf's game-winning run was doubly remarkable considering he also had ripped off a 91-yard punt return for a score in the second quarter. (His two punt-return touchdowns tied the NFL record.) All this from a player who didn't practice until Friday because of a sprained knee.

On his winning dash up the right sideline, Metcalf ran away from at least eight different tacklers.

It was difficult for the Steelers, whose four-game winning streak was snapped, to believe they had lost. With Neil O'Donnell passing for 355 yards, they outgained the Browns 444-245, out-first-downed them 26-12, and controlled the ball for more than 36 minutes.

In fact, they led in just about every category—except punt returns.

IT WASN'T A PERFECT DAY FOR CLEVELAND—With a 5-2 record, the Browns were off to their best start since 1977, but they lost quarterback Vinny Testaverde for all or most of the season.

Testaverde, who threw 2 touchdown passes in his second start since replacing Bernie Kosar in the lineup, left in the fourth quarter with a separated passing shoulder.

ONE-MAN RECEIVING CORPS—In Tampa, Sterling Sharpe outscored Tampa Bay.

The Packers' wide receiver tied a 48-year-old club record held by Pro Football Hall of Fame member Don Hutson by catching 4 touchdown passes from Brett Favre (7, 30, 10, and 32 yards) in a 37-14 rout of the Buccaneers. In all, Sharpe had 10 catches for 147 yards.

Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe caught 4 touchdown passes and even played quarterback.

Mark Brettingen

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	5	1	0	N.Y. Giants	5	1	0
Miami	5	1	0	Dallas	4	2	0
Indianapolis	2	4	0	Philadelphia	4	2	0
N.Y. Jets	2	4	0	Phoenix	2	5	0
New England	1	6	0	Washington	1	5	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	5	2	0	Detroit	5	2	0
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	Minnesota	3	3	0
Houston	3	4	0	Chicago	4	2	0
Cincinnati	0	7	0	Green Bay	3	3	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	1	5	0
Kansas City	5	1	0	NFC West			
L.A. Raiders	4	2	0	New Orleans	5	2	0
Seattle	4	3	0	San Francisco	4	3	0
Denver	3	3	0	Atlanta	2	5	0
San Diego	2	4	0	L.A. Rams	2	5	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 19, N.Y. Jets 10
Cleveland 28, Pittsburgh 23
Houston 28, Cincinnati 12
Miami 41, Indianapolis 27
Seattle 10, New England 9

NFC

Atlanta 26, New Orleans 15
Detroit 16, L.A. Rams 13
Green Bay 37, Tampa Bay 14
Minnesota 19, Chicago 12
San Francisco 28, Phoenix 14

Sharpe even lined up at quarterback for two plays in a wild-looking Shotgun formation. He ran for 5 yards on first down and completed a 1-yard pass on second down.

"I wouldn't put him in Joe Montana's league just yet," laughed coach Mike Holmgren. "But he's a good thrower. We have a chance to do some good things in that formation."

ONE-MAN RECEIVING CORPS II—Jerry Rice had been complaining that he wasn't getting the ball enough. The 49ers paid attention.

As San Francisco smacked the Cardinals 28-14, Rice caught 9 passes for 155 yards, including 8- and 7-yard touchdown passes from Steve Young.

THE MITCHELL ERA BEGINS

With injured Dan Marino gone for the season, Scott Mitchell made his first start a winning one for Miami. The 25-year-old left-hander completed 12 of 19 passes as the Dolphins outscored the Colts 41-27 to win their fourth in a row.

Mitchell had a lot of help. Rookie O.J. McDuffie scored on a 71-yard punt return, Mark Higgs rushed for 114 yards, safety Louis Oliver returned an interception 56 yards for a touchdown, and rookie Terry Kirby ran for one score and caught a pass for another.

THIS DEFENSE NEVER RESTS—The Bills beat the Jets 19-10 without their offense scoring a touchdown.

The Bills' defense was awesome.

Already tied for the NFL lead in takeaways, the Bills forced 4 more, including linebacker Darryl Talley's 61-yard interception return for a touchdown. On offense, Thurman Thomas rushed for 117 yards and caught 7 passes for 67 more.

YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN—Former Saints quarterback Bobby Hebert returned to New Orleans and threw 2 touchdown passes as Atlanta surprised the home team 26-15. Hebert completed 13 of 16 attempts.

It was the second loss in a row for New Orleans, which started the season 5-0.

The Falcons' Norm Johnson kicked 4 field goals to run his streak to 19 consecutive, dating back to 1992. Erric Pegram rushed for 132 yards.

YOU CAN GO HOME AGAIN II—On Monday night, quarterback Jim McMahon, traded by the Bears in 1989, made his first return to Chicago and helped lead the Vikings to a 19-12 victory.

He was lucky he didn't have to face his own defense, which sacked the Bears' Jim Harbaugh a club-record-tying 9 times. Tackle John Randle had 3 sacks, end Chris Doleman 2. ◆

QUOTE

Ex-Saints quarterback **Bobby Hebert**, after leading Atlanta to a 26-15 victory over his old team:

"I'm like the Benedict Arnold of New Orleans."

Marv Rubin

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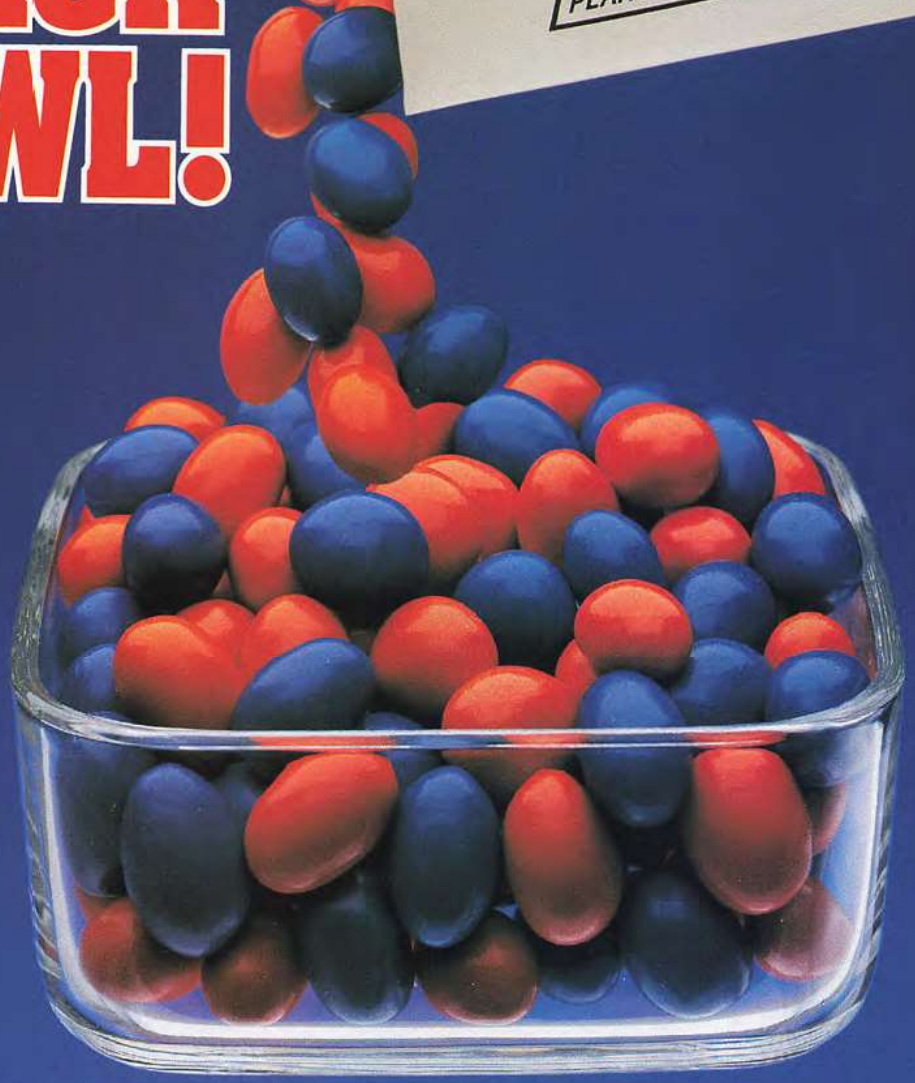

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S E L E C T F O O T B A L L

WEEK NINE • *October 31*

CELEBRATION IN MIAMI—It was a moment to savor.

Thirty-one years after he became an NFL head coach, Don Shula caught up with legendary Chicago Bears coach George Halas.

And Shula did it in style.

Running their winning streak to five, Shula and his Miami Dolphins routed the AFC West-leading Chiefs 30-10 in Miami. With the victory, the 63-year-old coach had reached 324 in his career, tying him with Halas for the most in NFL history.

"I'm very happy about being able to tie a record set by George Halas, a guy who has meant so much to the NFL," Shula said. "I never thought when I started coaching that there would be a day like this."

Steven Murphy

Miami's Don Shula got an ice-water bath after he tied George Halas.

On Shula's big day, fast-improving Scott Mitchell passed for 344 yards and 3 touchdowns as the Dolphins gained 483 yards and controlled the ball for nearly 37 minutes.

While Mitchell threw scoring passes to Irving Fryar (27 yards), Keith Byars (8), and Mark Ingram (73), Miami's defense held the Chiefs without a touchdown until 2:30 remained in the game. Linebacker Bryan Cox recovered 2 fumbles, setting up 2 touchdowns.

Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana left late in the first half after aggravating his pulled hamstring.

HERE'S ONE HOSTETLER WOULD LIKE BACK—Jeff Hostetler passed for a Raiders-record 424 yards, including 71- and 38-yard touchdown bombs to Tim Brown, but the Chargers beat Los Angeles 30-23.

The game turned on one dramatic play late in the third quarter when the score was tied 17-17.

On second down at the Chargers' 3-yard line, Hostetler passed toward Brown in the end zone, but Chargers cornerback Donald Frank, burned on Brown's long scoring catch, intercepted and raced 102 yards for a touchdown.

"He just put it in my hands," Frank said. "It was obviously something I couldn't pass up."

DON'T LOOK BACK; DETROIT MAY BE GAINING ON YOU—As the fourth quarter started in a battle for first place in the NFC Central, the Lions trailed the Vikings 27-13. But they scored 17 consecutive points and won 30-27.

The Lions went ahead for good on Derrick Moore's 1-yard touchdown run with 40 seconds left on the first play after a pass-interference penalty had given them a first down.

Detroit began its comeback when Rodney Peete and Herman Moore teamed on a 93-yard touchdown pass 12 seconds into the last quarter.

GREAT DAY FOR A GREAT BACK

Heavy rain fell in Philadelphia, but Emmitt Smith was as comfortable as a duck.

The Dallas running back splashed for a club-record 237 yards to lead his team to a 23-10 victory over Philadelphia, the Cowboys' fifth victory in a row.

Dallas held a narrow 16-10 lead when Smith burst up the middle and raced 62 yards for the clinching touchdown with just 3:45 left.

"I'm happy, I'm tired, and I'm excited all at the same time," Smith said later.

James D. Smith

Emmitt Smith rushed for a Dallas-record 237 yards against the Eagles.

DON'T LOOK BACK II—After losing two in a row, the Saints were winners again, but it wasn't easy. They bounced back from a 17-7 halftime deficit to beat the Cardinals 20-17.

Cornerback Aeneas Williams had given Phoenix that 10-point lead when he returned a fumble 20 yards for a touchdown and took an interception back 46 yards for another.

But, after the Saints tied the score at 17-17 in the fourth quarter, safety Gene Atkins ran an interception back 37 yards to set up Morten Andersen's game-winning field goal.

The Saints' defense also had 6 sacks, 3 by linebacker Renaldo Turnbull, and held Phoenix to only 143 total yards.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER—In successive Super Bowl appearances, the Bills lost to the Giants, Redskins, and Cowboys. In starting 6-1 this season, Buffalo had beaten each of them.

Washington was the latest to fall, the Bills delighting their hometown fans with a 24-10 victory on Monday night. Buffalo intercepted Mark Rypien 4 times, 2 by cornerback Nate Odomes, and all 4 steals stopped Washington drives.

WHO'S NEXT?—Slumping quarterback Jim Everett was benched by the Rams, ending his streak of 87 consecutive starts, longest in the NFL. But his replacement, 24-year-old T.J. Rubley, was sacked 7 times as the 49ers ran away and hid, 40-17.

Rookie defensive end Troy Wilson had 3 of the sacks, while cornerback Michael McGruder returned an interception 32 yards for a touchdown.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY—From Browns special teams star Ron Wolfley: "The bigger they are, the harder I fall." ◆

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	6	1	0	Dallas	5	2	0
Miami	6	1	0	N.Y. Giants	5	2	0
Indianapolis	3	4	0	Philadelphia	4	3	0
N.Y. Jets	3	4	0	Phoenix	2	6	0
New England	1	7	0	Washington	1	6	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Cleveland	5	2	0	Detroit	6	2	0
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	Green Bay	4	3	0
Houston	3	4	0	Minnesota	4	3	0
Cincinnati	0	7	0	Chicago	3	4	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	2	5	0
Kansas City	5	2	0	NFC West			
Denver	4	3	0	New Orleans	6	2	0
L.A. Raiders	4	3	0	San Francisco	5	3	0
Seattle	4	4	0	Atlanta	2	6	0
San Diego	3	4	0	L.A. Rams	2	6	0

SCORES

AFC

Denver 28, Seattle 17
Indianapolis 9, New England 6
Miami 30, Kansas City 10
San Diego 30, L.A. Raiders 23

NFC

Dallas 23, Philadelphia 10
Detroit 30, Minnesota 27
Green Bay 17, Chicago 3
New Orleans 20, Phoenix 17
San Francisco 40, L.A. Rams 17
Tampa Bay 31, Atlanta 24

Interconference

Buffalo 24, Washington 10
N.Y. Jets 10, N.Y. Giants 6

WEEK TEN • *November 7*

DALLAS: ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER VICTORY—Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman was scrambling to the right when he fell to the ground without being touched. He had strained his left hamstring.

When Aikman left the game, the Cowboys led the Giants 17-6 in a battle for first place in the NFC East. They remained unruffled, despite Aikman's injury, scoring 2 more touchdowns to overwhelm the Giants 31-9.

"There's no question who has the better team," Giants coach Dan Reeves said. "They beat us in all three phases [of the game]. This was a good measuring stick, and it shows we have a long way to go to be as good as they are."

It looked as if everybody else might have a long way to go, too. Halfway through the season, the defending Super Bowl champions were looking like the best team in football again. After an 0-2 start without holdout running back Emmitt Smith, the Cowboys had gone 6-0 since his return.

Smith pounded away at the Giants for 117 yards, including 55 after Aikman left. He scored touchdowns at the end of two drives led by backup Jason Garrett.

While he was on the field, Aikman hit 11 of 13 passes, including 28- and 50-yard touchdown strikes to Alvin Harper. The defense held the Giants to 3 field goals and had 5 sacks.

THE JINX—Don Shula could only shake his head.

"I can't figure it out," he said. "The Jets are a good team when they play us. I don't know about other times."

What Shula couldn't figure out was why the Jets, who struggle against the rest of the NFL, play like champions against Miami. This time, New York easily beat the Dolphins 27-10, with Boomer Esiason passing for 256 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 2 to tight end Johnny Mitchell.

It allowed the Jets to sweep the two-game season series with Miami and kept Shula from passing George Halas to become the winningest coach of all time. The Miami coach remained tied with Halas with 324 career victories.

The victory also gave the Jets five wins in their last six games against Miami. It was their twenty-first against Shula, more than any other team.

A ROAR FROM THE LIONS

Without much fanfare, Detroit was off to a 7-2 start, the best record in the NFC, and the club's best start since 1962.

The Lions hit that mark after blasting Tampa Bay 23-0, their first shutout since 1983. They held the Buccaneers to 6 first downs.

Barry Sanders was up to his usual elusive tricks, rushing for 187 yards, while Rodney Peete hit 16 of 22 pass attempts and scored on a 9-yard run.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	1	0	Dallas	6	2	0
Miami	6	2	0	N.Y. Giants	5	3	0
N.Y. Jets	4	4	0	Philadelphia	4	4	0
Indianapolis	3	5	0	Phoenix	3	6	0
New England	1	8	0	Washington	2	6	0
AFC Central				AFC Central			
Cleveland	5	3	0	Detroit	7	2	0
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	Green Bay	4	4	0
Houston	4	4	0	Minnesota	4	4	0
Cincinnati	0	8	0	Chicago	3	5	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	2	6	0
Kansas City	6	2	0	NFC West			
Denver	5	3	0	New Orleans	6	2	0
L.A. Raiders	5	3	0	San Francisco	5	3	0
Seattle	4	4	0	Atlanta	2	6	0
San Diego	3	5	0	L.A. Rams	2	6	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 13, New England 10 (OT)
Denver 29, Cleveland 16
N.Y. Jets 27, Miami 10
Pittsburgh 24, Cincinnati 16

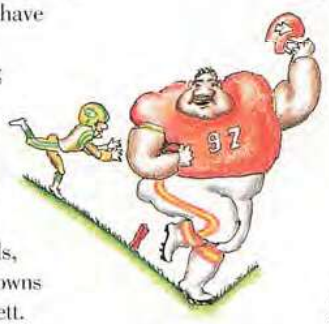
NFC

Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 9
Detroit 23, Tampa Bay 0
Phoenix 16, Philadelphia 3

Interconference

Kansas City 23, Green Bay 16
L.A. Raiders 16, Chicago 14
San Diego 30, Minnesota 17
Washington 30, Indianapolis 24

Mary Rubin



QUOTE

Chiefs defensive tackle **Dan Saleaumua**, celebrating his 16-yard fumble return for a touchdown in a 23-16 victory over Green Bay:

"It just goes to prove that you can be 315 pounds and still score a touchdown. There ain't no weight limit."

THE JINX II—John Elway threw 3 touchdown passes in the first half, including one of 38 yards to Derek Russell and 33 yards to Shannon Sharpe, as the Broncos ripped the Browns 29-14 in Cleveland.

It was no surprise. It was Denver's third victory in a row in Cleveland and eighth in the 10 games played there. Overall, the Broncos have won 14 of their last 16 games against the Browns, counting playoffs.

Although he threw 2 touchdown passes, Cleveland's Bernie Kosar was sacked 6 times. The next day, in a stunning development, he was cut. Two days later, he signed with Dallas.

SO CLOSE AND YET SO FAR—Early in the fourth quarter, the Patriots led the Bills 10-0.

But, when the game ended, Buffalo, on Steve Christie's 32-yard field goal in overtime, had sent New England down to another defeat, 13-10. In their previous two games, the Patriots gave up the winning points with 25 seconds and 2:42 left.

"You can't be any more disappointed than I am," coach Bill Parcells said.

Jim Kelly's 56-yard pass to rookie Russell Copeland set up Christie's tying field goal with 14 seconds left in regulation, and his 46-yard collaboration with Andre Reed set up the winning kick in overtime. In all, Kelly passed for 317 yards, and Thurman Thomas, playing with painful bruised ribs, rushed for 111.

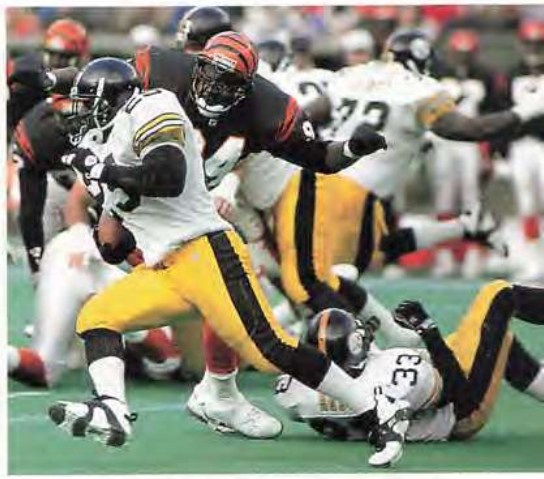
ANOTHER COMEBACK—Winless Cincinnati grabbed a 16-0 second-quarter lead over the Steelers, helped by safety Darryl Williams's 97-yard interception return for a touchdown.

Joe Robbins

But Pittsburgh, with Barry Foster rushing for 120 yards and Neil O'Donnell throwing 2 touchdown passes, rallied for a 24-16 victory. Tight end Eric Green started the rally by catching O'Donnell's 71-yard touchdown pass.

TAKING THEM ONE AT A TIME—Houston, which started the season 1-4, was on the way back.

Warren Moon passed for 369 yards to help power the Oilers over Seattle 24-14. It was Houston's third consecutive victory. ◆



Barry Foster rushed for 120 yards as Pittsburgh rallied to beat Cincinnati 24-16.

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Why some teams have a stronger bench than others.

WEEK ELEVEN • *November 14*

ABOVE THE CROWD—When the game was over, the Miami Dolphins hoisted Don Shula on their shoulders and carried him off the field. He left as the winningest NFL coach of all time.

On a day the Dolphins lost still another quarterback to injury, Shula held his team together and guided it to a hard-fought 19-14 victory over the Eagles. It was one for the ages.

At the age of 63, the Miami coach had claimed his 325th victory, breaking a tie with legendary Hall of Fame coach George Halas. And Shula did it despite losing quarterback Scott Mitchell on the second play of the second half with a separated throwing shoulder. A month earlier, Miami had lost Pro Bowl quarterback Don Marino for the season with a torn Achilles tendon.

"This game was special to me, mainly because of the way we won," Shula said. "After the game, I thanked the team for hanging in there."

The Dolphins hung in there on both offense and defense. They were trailing 14-13 when Mitchell left, but the defense shut out the Eagles in the second half. Cornerback Troy Vincent recovered a fumble to set up Pete Stoyanovich's 46-yard, third-quarter field goal for a 16-14 lead.

In the fourth quarter, quarterback Doug Pederson, who never had thrown a pass in the NFL before this game, guided the Dolphins 45 yards to Stoyanovich's 45-yard field goal for the final margin.

"Coach Shula just kept telling me it was going to be all right," Pederson said later. "He kept telling me that I could do it."

He was right.

EMERGING FORCE—Since an 0-2 start, no one in the AFC had been better than Pittsburgh.

Winning their sixth game in the last seven, the Steelers overpowered Buffalo 23-0 on Monday night, despite losing leading rusher Barry Foster in the first quarter with a sprained ankle. Leroy Thompson replaced Foster and rushed for 108 yards and a touchdown.

"This moves us into the upper echelon of teams in the AFC and the NFL," Pittsburgh cornerback D.J. Johnson said later.

The Steelers' dominance against Buffalo, which led the NFL with a 7-1 record, was staggering. They outgained the Bills 400-157, led in first downs 26-9, and controlled the ball for nearly 45 minutes.

RICE WAS COOKING—In Tampa, the 49ers scored on seven of their first eight possessions to blast Tampa Bay 45-21.

Steve Young fired 4 touchdown passes, all to Jerry Rice, for 12, 51, 9, and 26 yards. For the day, Rice sizzled with 8 catches for 172 yards.

With his 4 scoring catches, the 49ers' wide receiver moved up to third on the all-time list with 118 career touchdowns, trailing only Jim Brown (126) and Walter Payton (125).

ANOTHER HOT BATTERY—In Cincinnati, Warren Moon also threw 4 touchdown passes, despite heavy rain, as Houston bombed the winless Bengals 38-3. Haywood Jeffires caught 3 of them (for 21, 6, and 12 yards).

Gary Brown, starting his first NFL game, rushed for 166 yards and a touchdown. It was the Oilers' fourth victory in a row.

THEY'VE GOT THE RAIDERS' NUMBER—The Chiefs remained alone in first place in the AFC West by rallying from a 17-7 halftime deficit to beat the Raiders 31-20. It was their ninth win in the last 11 games with Los Angeles.

Dave Krieg, still subbing for injured Joe Montana, threw 3 touchdown passes, including one of 66 yards to Willie Davis. Ex-Raider Marcus Allen scored from 4 yards after setting it up with a twisting 39-yard run.

COMEBACK DEPARTMENT—Halfway through the second quarter in Denver, the Broncos, who almost always win at home, were leading the Vikings 20-3.

But Minnesota, with Sean Salisbury passing for 366 yards and 2 touchdowns, won it on Fuad Reveiz's fourth field goal, from 43 yards, with 2:49 left. Salisbury set up the winning field goal with a 55-yard pass to Cris Carter.

HE SAW WELL ENOUGH—With 52 seconds to go, the Saints led the Packers 17-16. But Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe, suffering from blurred vision after being poked in his right eye, caught a 54-yard pass from Brett Favre to set up Chris Jacke's winning 36-yard field goal. It came with three seconds left.

"If Sterling was still suffering from double vision at the end," Packers coach Mike Holmgren said, "I'm glad he caught the right ball." ◆

Greg Crisp

Don Shula was carried off the field after his record 325th victory.

THE NEWEST COWBOY

Six days after being cut by Cleveland, Bernie Kosar led Dallas to a 20-15 victory over the Cardinals.

Despite only three days of practice with the Cowboys, Kosar relieved Jason Garrett late in the first quarter with Dallas ahead 3-0. Garrett had started for injured Troy Aikman.

Kosar went on to complete 13 of 21 passes for 199 yards and a touchdown, with no interceptions.

"I'll take Bernie Kosar on my team the rest of my coaching career," Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said. "For him to share time in three practices and do what he did today is just unbelievable."

Mary Rubin

QUOTE

Jets coach **Bruce Coslet**, asked after a 31-17 victory over Indianapolis if the Colts' record of 10 wins in the last 12 games against New York was like a monkey on his team's back:

"It was more like a large gorilla."

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	7	2	0
Miami	7	2	0
N.Y. Jets	5	4	0
Indianapolis	3	6	0
New England	1	8	0
AFC Central			
Pittsburgh	6	3	0
Cleveland	5	4	0
Houston	5	4	0
Cincinnati	0	9	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	7	2	0
Denver	5	4	0
L.A. Raiders	5	4	0
Seattle	5	5	0
San Diego	4	5	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	7	2	0
N.Y. Giants	6	3	0
Philadelphia	4	5	0
Phoenix	3	7	0
Washington	2	7	0
NFC Central			
Detroit	7	2	0
Green Bay	5	4	0
Minnesota	5	4	0
Chicago	4	5	0
Tampa Bay	2	7	0
NFC West			
New Orleans	6	3	0
San Francisco	6	3	0
Atlanta	3	6	0
L.A. Rams	2	7	0

SCORES

AFC

Pittsburgh 23, Buffalo 0
Houston 38, Cincinnati 3
Kansas City 31, L.A. Raiders 20
N.Y. Jets 31, Indianapolis 17
Seattle 22, Cleveland 5

NFC

Atlanta 13, L.A. Rams 0
Dallas 22, Phoenix 15
Green Bay 19, New Orleans 17
N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 6
San Francisco 45, Tampa Bay 21

Interconference

Chicago 16, San Diego 13
Miami 19, Philadelphia 14
Minnesota 26, Denver 23

WEEK TWELVE • *November 21*

HERE COMES THE TEAM OF THE EIGHTIES—After six games this season, the 49ers were 3-3 and two games behind the Saints in the NFC West. But, as the old movie line says, "They're B-a-a-c-k!"

On Monday night, the 49ers overwhelmed New Orleans 42-7 to take sole possession of first place for the first time this season. It was the fourth victory in a row for San Francisco (now 7-3), while the sinking Saints (6-4) lost for the fourth time in five games.

"You can bring on whoever you want right now," 49ers wide receiver Jerry Rice said. "I don't care. We're ready for them."

SELECT COMPANY
His team lost to Green Bay 26-17, but Detroit's Barry Sanders rushed for 75 yards and joined Eric Dickerson and Tony Dorsett as the only backs to gain 1,000 yards in each of their first five NFL seasons.

The Saints sure weren't ready. The 49ers' blitz started midway through the first quarter when safety Merton Hanks picked off a pass by Wade Wilson, fell down, jumped up, and raced 67 yards for a touchdown.

From there, San Francisco built a 42-0 lead. Steve Young threw 11- and 14-yard touchdown passes to Jerry Rice, and hit John Taylor with a 22-yard toss for another score. Young also ran 7 yards for a touchdown. Ricky Watters rushed for 116 yards.

Young now had thrown 172 passes without an interception, breaking Joe Montana's club record.

SHOCKER IN ATLANTA—Week 12 had three big surprises, but no result was more startling than Atlanta's 27-14 victory over Dallas, snapping the Cowboys' seven-game winning streak.

The Cowboys not only lost the game, they lost Emmitt Smith with a severely bruised thigh two minutes before halftime. Even with Smith, Dallas trailed 13-0.

"We expected to beat them," Atlanta coach Jerry Glanville said. "We weren't surprised. We felt we owed them something. They tried to steal our lunch money last year [when Dallas won 41-17]."

Bobby Hebert passed for 315 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 2 to Mike Pritchard. Cornerback Deion Sanders, seeing action on offense, took a short pass and went 70 yards for another score. Norm Johnson kicked a pair of field goals to run his streak to 24 in a row.

SURPRISE II—Neal Anderson scored on a 1-yard run with 3:09 left as the Bears rallied for a 19-17 victory over the Chiefs to snap Kansas City's 10-game winning streak at home.

Barry Sanders: a 1,000-yard rusher for the fifth year in a row

Marc Brettingen

John Elway passed for 276 yards as Denver ripped Pittsburgh.

John Betancourt

The winning touchdown was set up by cornerback Jeremy Lincoln, who intercepted a bobbled pass at the Chiefs' 12-yard line and returned it to the 4.

Kansas City led 14-0 in the second quarter on 2 touchdown runs by Marcus Allen, who increased his career total to 107, sixth-best all-time.

SURPRISE III—In Florida, cornerback Milton Mack scored on a 27-yard, third-quarter interception return to put Tampa Bay ahead for good, and the Buccaneers went on to beat the Vikings 23-10.

WHERE HAS THIS GUY BEEN?—In his first two years in the NFL, Houston's Gary Brown rushed for a total of 172 yards.

With starter Lorenzo White hurt, however, Brown was emerging as one of the hottest backs in the league. In just two starts, he had run for 360 yards, including 194 and a touchdown in the Oilers' 27-20 victory in Cleveland.

"I don't think we realized what we had," center Bruce Matthews said. "We're quickly finding out."

While Brown led the offense, safety Marcus Robertson had a club-record-tying 3 interceptions off Todd Philcox. Two of his interceptions stopped fourth-quarter drives. It was Houston's fifth consecutive victory.

BOOMER SETS A RECORD—At the Meadowlands, the Jets won their fourth in a row with a 17-12 victory over winless Cincinnati. New York's Boomer Esiason passed Kenny Stabler and became the NFL leader in career passing yardage for left-handed quarterbacks. He finished the game with 28,115 career yards.

TWO AT THE TOP—Tied for first in the AFC East, Miami and Buffalo also were tied for the NFL's best record at 8-2.

The Dolphins beat New England 17-13 as 39-year-old Steve DeBerg, the club's third starter at quarterback this season, threw 2 fourth-quarter touchdown passes, while Mark Higgs rushed for 108 yards. DeBerg, who had been with the Dolphins less than two weeks, was cut by Tampa Bay earlier in the season.

Meanwhile, the Bills ripped the Colts 23-9. Thurman Thomas rushed for 116 yards, his NFL-leading sixth 100-yard game of 1993.

YOU FIGURE IT OUT—Six days earlier, Pittsburgh looked like the best team in the AFC, shutting out Buffalo 23-0.

Then the Steelers went to Denver, where the Broncos scored on six of their first seven possessions to seize a 34-3 lead and win 37-13. Denver's John Elway passed for 276 yards and a touchdown. ◆

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	8	2	0
Miami	8	2	0
N.Y. Jets	6	4	0
Indianapolis	3	7	0
New England	1	9	0
AFC Central			
Houston	6	4	0
Pittsburgh	6	4	0
Cleveland	5	5	0
Cincinnati	0	10	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	7	3	0
Denver	6	4	0
L.A. Raiders	6	4	0
Seattle	5	5	0
San Diego	4	6	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	7	3	0
N.Y. Giants	7	3	0
Philadelphia	4	6	0
Phoenix	3	7	0
Washington	2	8	0
NFC Central			
Detroit	7	3	0
Green Bay	6	4	0
Chicago	5	5	0
Minnesota	5	5	0
Tampa Bay	3	7	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	7	3	0
New Orleans	6	4	0
Atlanta	4	6	0
L.A. Rams	3	7	0

SCORES

AFC
Buffalo 23, Indianapolis 9
Denver 37, Pittsburgh 13
Houston 27, Cleveland 20
L.A. Raiders 12, San Diego 7
Miami 17, New England 13
N.Y. Jets 17, Cincinnati 12
NFC
Atlanta 27, Dallas 14
Green Bay 26, Detroit 17
L.A. Rams 10, Washington 6
Tampa Bay 23, Minnesota 10
N.Y. Giants 7, Philadelphia 3
San Francisco 42, New Orleans 7
Interconference
Chicago 19, Kansas City 17

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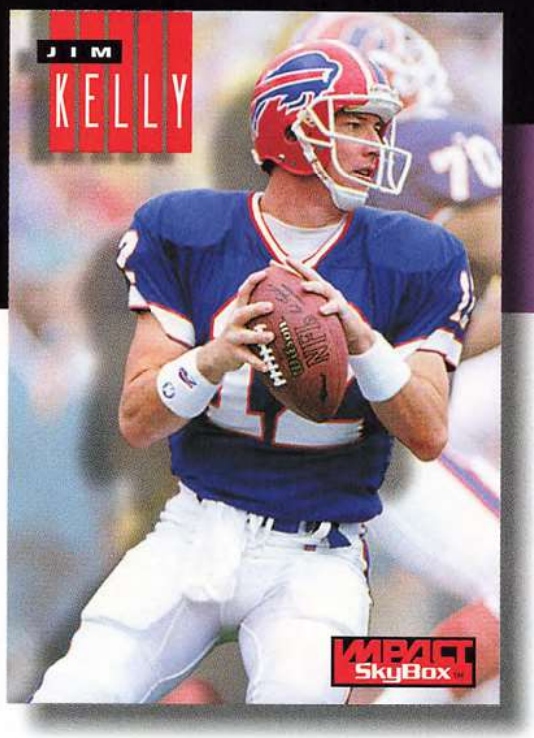

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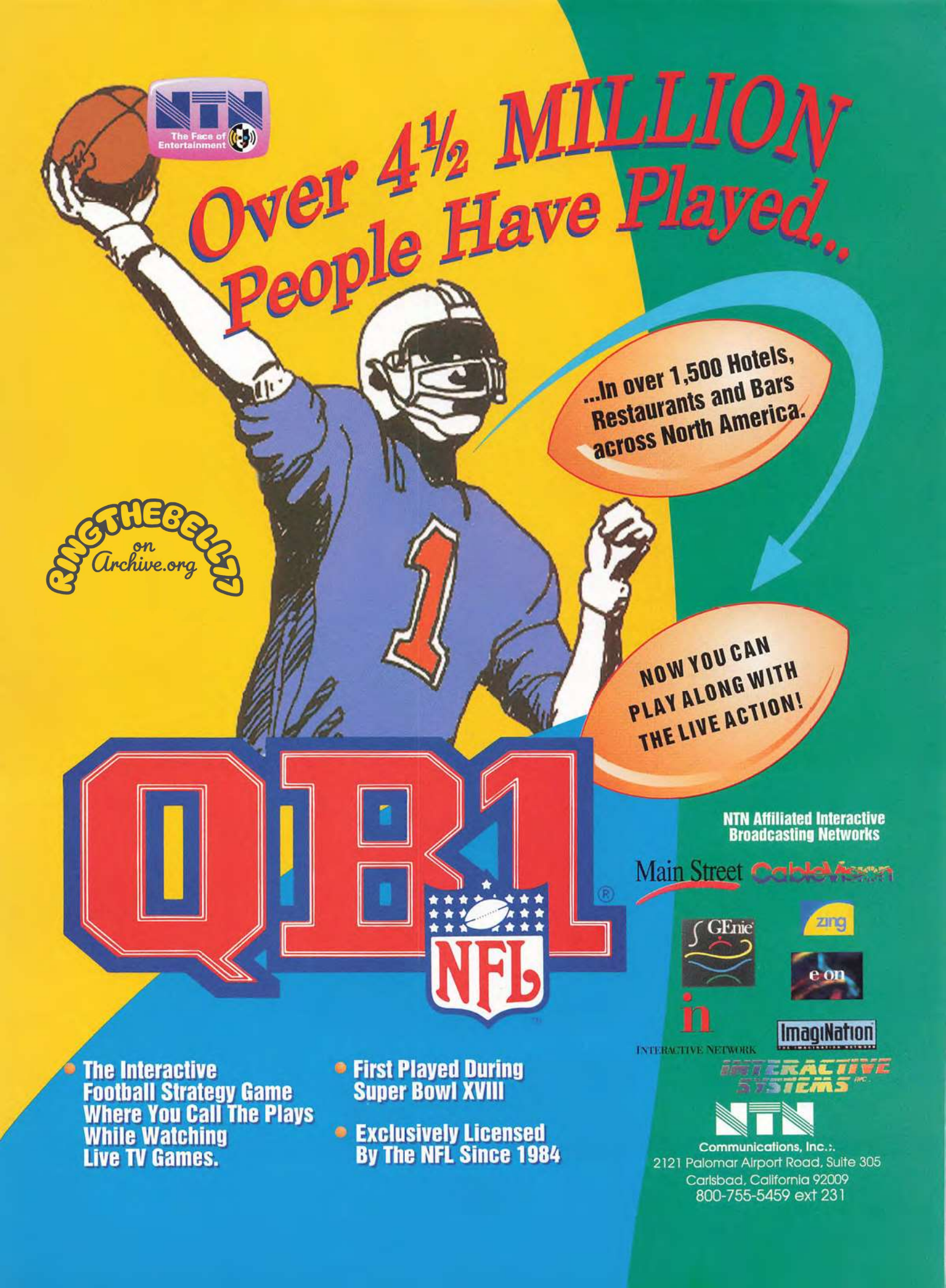
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WEEK THIRTEEN • *November 25*

THE DOLPHINS GIVE THANKS—It was hard to believe, even for the winning coach.

"There have been been a lot of *W's*," said Miami's Don Shula, who now had 327 of them, "but this one is special. I can't remember anything like that."

Neither could anyone else. Miami's 16-14 Thanksgiving Day victory over Dallas was nothing less than a borderline miracle.

The Dolphins won the matchup of first-place teams on Pete Stoyanovich's 19-yard field goal on the last play of the game, after Dallas fans already had celebrated what they thought was their victory.

Troy Aikman's 4-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Williams and Williams's 64-yard scoring punt return had given the Cowboys a 14-13 lead that appeared to hold up when defensive tackle Jimmie Jones blocked a 41-yard field-goal attempt by Stoyanovich with only a few seconds remaining.

If the ball had rolled to a stop, the play would have ended. But Dallas defensive tackle Leon Lett tried to pick it up, and it bounced off his foot all the way to the Cowboys' 1. Miami center Jeff Dellenbach fell on the ball with three seconds left.

"My eyes got as big as saucers when I saw that ball pop out," Dellenbach said. "I knew it was a live ball."

With the Dolphins in possession on the 1, Stoyanovich lined up again and made the game-winning field goal from 19 yards.

AFC HEAT—Houston's comeback was for real.

With their 23-3 victory over Pittsburgh, the Oilers had won six in a row (their longest winning streak since 1962) and taken over first place in the AFC Central. The streak followed a 1-4 start.

"It's probably the best football we've played, the most emotional we've played for a whole game," head coach Jack Pardee said.

The Oilers' emotional defense had 6 sacks (4 by end William Fuller) and forced 4 turnovers. Warren Moon passed for 295 yards, including a 66-yard touchdown pass to Haywood Jeffires. Ernest Givins's 5 catches ran his career total to a club-record 484.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Jerry Rice caught 8 passes against the Rams, this one with one hand.

NFC HEAT—San Francisco clearly was the hottest team in the NFC.

Steve Young passed for a career-high 462 yards as the 49ers ripped the Rams 35-10 for their fifth successive victory. They had outscored those five opponents 190-69.

"They have so many weapons," Rams defensive end Fred Stokes said. "Close one door and they open another."

One of those weapons, Jerry Rice, was closing fast on Jim Brown's NFL record for career touchdowns (126). The 49ers' wide receiver caught 8 passes for 166 yards, including 39- and 7-yard touchdown strikes from Young, to run his career total to 122, third behind Brown and Walter Payton (125).

Rice, who led the league with 1,048 receiving yards, also set an NFL record for consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons (eight) and tied the mark for most in a career, with the same number.

The 49ers' John Taylor caught 6 passes for 150 yards and scored on a 76-yard play.

THE JOE FACTOR—Out three games with a pulled hamstring, Joe Montana returned to throw touchdown passes to Marcus Allen and tight end Keith Cash, leading the Chiefs to a 23-7 victory over Buffalo.

The Chiefs' defense intercepted Jim Kelly 3 times, sacked Kelly and Frank Reich 4 times, and held Thurman Thomas to 25 rushing yards.

Doug Pesce

Defensive end Neil Smith had 2 sacks as the Chiefs beat the Bills.

THE AGE OF SPECIALIZATION—The Giants keep Brad Daluiso on the squad for kickoffs and long field-goal attempts. Good idea.

With 32 seconds left, Daluiso boomed a 54-yard field goal to give New York a 19-17 victory over Phoenix. It was the Cardinals' seventh loss by seven points or fewer.

New York's Phil Simms, playing with an inner-ear infection, passed for 337 yards, while David Treadwell kicked 3 short field goals.

LAST GASP DEPARTMENT—Both the Packers and Eagles drove 75 yards to win on late 2-yard touchdown passes.

Green Bay moved into a first-place tie with Detroit in the NFC Central when Brett Favre passed to Sterling Sharpe with 1:16 left to beat Tampa Bay 13-10. It was the Packers' sixth win in their last seven games.

In Washington, the Eagles snapped their six-game losing streak when Bubby Brister passed to running back James Joseph with 46 seconds left to beat the Redskins 17-14. ◆

ROAD WARRIORS

On Thanksgiving, the fast-improving Bears sacked Rodney Peete 5 times, forced 4 turnovers, and snuffed out the Lions 10-6. By winning, Chicago became the first team in NFL history to win three consecutive road games in a 12-day period.

The Bears' Terry Obee made a diving catch of Jim Harbaugh's 42-yard pass in the end zone to score the game's lone touchdown.

Detroit's Barry Sanders, the NFL's leading rusher, suffered a partially torn knee ligament and figured to be out a minimum of two games.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	2	0	N.Y. Giants	8	3	0
Miami	8	3	0	Dallas	7	4	0
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	Philadelphia	5	6	0
Indianapolis	3	8	0	Phoenix	3	8	0
New England	1	10	0	Washington	2	9	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Houston	7	4	0	Detroit	7	4	0
Pittsburgh	6	5	0	Green Bay	7	4	0
Cleveland	5	6	0	Chicago	6	5	0
Cincinnati	1	10	0	Minnesota	5	6	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	3	8	0
Kansas City	8	3	0	NFC West			
Denver	7	4	0	San Francisco	8	3	0
L.A. Raiders	6	5	0	New Orleans	7	4	0
Seattle	5	6	0	Atlanta	5	6	0
San Diego	5	6	0	L.A. Rams	3	8	0

SCORES

AFC

Cincinnati 16, L.A. Raiders 10
Denver 17, Seattle 9
Houston 23, Pittsburgh 3
Kansas City 23, Buffalo 7
N.Y. Jets 6, New England 0
San Diego 31, Indianapolis 0

NFC

Chicago 10, Detroit 6
Green Bay 13, Tampa Bay 10
New Orleans 17, Minnesota 14
N.Y. Giants 19, Phoenix 17
Philadelphia 17, Washington 14
San Francisco 35, L.A. Rams 10

Interconference

Atlanta 17, Cleveland 14
Miami 16, Dallas 14

WEEK FOURTEEN • *December 5*

DEE-FENSE—It was not a good week for would-be offensive stars.

NFL defenses had a dizzying array of sacks, interceptions, forced fumbles...and touchdowns. In fact, defensive players scored 8 touchdowns. They were topped by the Bears, who scored 3 from that side of the football as their team rolled past the Packers 30-17 to create a three-way tie for first place in the NFC Central among Chicago, Green Bay, and Detroit.

In losing, the Packers outgained the Bears 466-210 (Brett Favre passed for 402), had a 29-10 advantage in first downs, and kept the ball for 38 minutes. But they also had 5 turnovers.

"The way we played today, you'd have thought our offense was a government giveaway program," Green Bay tackle Ken Ruettgers said in disgust.

Bears linebacker Dante Jones intercepted a pass by Favre at the Chicago 14, returned it to the 20, then gave it to cornerback Jeremy Lincoln, who dashed 80 yards for a touchdown. Jones also returned a fumble by Favre 32 yards for a score, and safety Mark Carrier clinched the game with a 34-yard interception return for the final touchdown. It was the Bears' fourth victory in a row.

Bears linebacker Dante Jones made 2 plays that led to touchdowns.

Ron Vesely

MAKING HIS MARCUS—Marcus Allen, who already led the AFC in touchdowns, scored 3 times—2 runs of 1 yard and a burst of 30 yards—as the Chiefs whipped the Seahawks 31-16. The 33-year-old Allen gained 73 yards on 12 carries while raising his season total to 13 touchdowns.

"I want someone to show me the step Marcus Allen lost," Seattle tight end Trey Junkin said.

The Chiefs' defense joined the fun, too. Linebacker Derrick Thomas scooped up quarterback Rick Mirer's fumble and raced 86 yards to a touchdown, and cornerback Albert Lewis set up 2 more touchdowns with an interception and a fumble recovery.

UNWELCOMING COMMITTEE—It was homecoming day in Houston for former Oilers coach Jerry Glanville, but his old team didn't show up with a friendly welcome wagon.

The streaking Oilers intercepted 6 passes by Bobby Hebert and recovered his fumble for a touchdown to rout Atlanta 33-17 for their seventh consecutive victory. Houston took the lead for good late in the third quarter when defensive end William Fuller sacked Hebert at the Falcons' 6, forcing a fumble that defensive tackle Ray Childress recovered in the end zone.

ROAD, SWEET ROAD—Before Sunday, the Dolphins were 12-0 at home against NFC East teams. But the Giants, in their first trip to Miami, squeezed out a 19-14 victory in a battle of division leaders.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Miami	9	3	0	N.Y. Giants	9	3	0
Buffalo	8	4	0	Dallas	8	4	0
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	Philadelphia	5	7	0
Indianapolis	4	8	0	Phoenix	4	8	0
New England	1	11	0	Washington	3	9	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Houston	8	4	0	Chicago	7	5	0
Pittsburgh	7	5	0	Detroit	7	5	0
Cleveland	6	6	0	Green Bay	7	5	0
Cincinnati	1	11	0	Minnesota	6	6	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	3	9	0
Kansas City	9	3	0	NFC West			
Denver	7	5	0	San Francisco	9	3	0
L.A. Raiders	7	5	0	New Orleans	7	5	0
San Diego	6	6	0	Atlanta	5	7	0
Seattle	5	7	0	L.A. Rams	3	9	0

SCORES

AFC

Indianapolis 9, N.Y. Jets 6
Kansas City 31, Seattle 16
L.A. Raiders 25, Buffalo 24
Pittsburgh 17, New England 14
San Diego 13, Denver 10

NFC

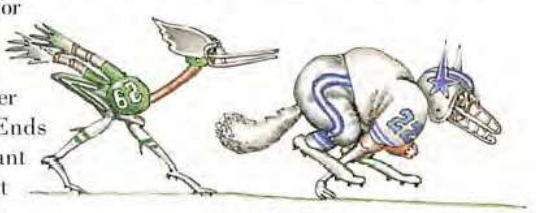
Chicago 30, Green Bay 17
Dallas 23, Philadelphia 17
Minnesota 13, Detroit 0
Phoenix 38, L.A. Rams 10
Washington 23, Tampa Bay 17

Interconference

Cleveland 17, New Orleans 13
Houston 33, Atlanta 17
N.Y. Giants 19, Miami 14
San Francisco 21, Cincinnati 8

New York defenders forced 2 turnovers inside their own 20, blocked a field-goal attempt, and scored 2 points on end Keith Hamilton's sack of Steve DeBerg in the end zone. On offense, Phil Simms completed 17 of 24 passes, 1 for a touchdown.

WILSON'S LONG DAY—Defense ruled in Cleveland, too. The Browns snapped their four-game losing streak, sacking Wade Wilson 9 times (a record for Saints' opponents) in a 17-13 victory over New Orleans. Ends Anthony Pleasant and Rob Burnett each had 2 sacks.



Cleveland quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who had suffered a separated throwing shoulder six weeks earlier, returned to throw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Michael Jackson.

QUOTE

Dallas running back **Emmitt Smith**, after he had been caught from behind by 162-pound cornerback Mark McMillian of the Eagles:

"It was like the roadrunner running up alongside the coyote."

Marc Rubin

HIS FAVORITE OPPONENT—In two games against Philadelphia this season, Emmitt Smith of Dallas rushed for a total of 409 yards.

After punishing the Eagles with 237 yards in an earlier victory, Smith came back to run for 172 more as Dallas snapped its two-game losing streak with a 23-17 victory. Smith raced 57 yards to the Eagles' 16 to set up the deciding touchdown in the fourth quarter.

GAME OF INCHES—On fourth down from a foot away, Patriots quarterback Drew Bledsoe tried to sneak for the winning touchdown on New England's last play of the game against Pittsburgh. But linebacker Levon Kirkland stopped Bledsoe just in front of the goal line to preserve the Steelers' 17-14 victory. Bledsoe had marched the Patriots 94 yards.

It was the seventh successive loss for New England, the last six by a total of 20 points.

"This doesn't get any easier," said Patriots coach Bill Parcells. ◆

COLD HANDS, HOT HANDS

Wearing gloves while playing in frigid Cincinnati the week before, Raiders wide receiver Tim Brown mishandled a key fourth-quarter pass that was intercepted.

At Buffalo this week, where the wind-chill factor was 18 degrees, Brown went gloveless and caught 10 passes for 183 yards, including a 29-yard touchdown pass from Jeff Hostetler with 4:48 left that beat the Bills 25-24.

"No matter how cold it was, I was going to play without gloves," Brown said. "I felt I wimped out last week."

Meanwhile, Buffalo's Thurman Thomas rushed for 74 yards and 2 touchdowns, and, with 1,061 rushing yards for the season, became the eighth NFL player to surpass 1,000 for five consecutive years.

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WEEK FIFTEEN • *December 11*

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES:—When Dan Reeves took over as head coach of the Giants last January, they had gone 14-18 over the previous two seasons.

But the 49-year-old ex-Denver coach went right to work. He named Phil Simms as his starting quarterback, restored discipline, waived 10 veterans, and, with the addition of several talented free agents, began the season with 10 new starters (7 on defense).

With three weeks to go in the 1993 season, all the hard work had paid off. By whipping the Colts 20-6, the Giants became the first team in the NFL to clinch a playoff berth, and, at 10-3, they had the best record in the league.

"I never expected to see the playoffs this year, not in my wildest dreams," linebacker Corey Miller said. "With all the changes around here—players, coach, everything—I just never expected it."

Reggie Rivers roared in to block a Kansas City punt and set up Denver's winning touchdown.

Kent Meireis/*Denver Post*

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	9	4	0	N.Y. Giants	10	3	0
Miami	9	4	0	Dallas	9	4	0
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	Philadelphia	5	8	0
Indianapolis	4	9	0	Phoenix	4	9	0
New England	2	11	0	Washington	3	10	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Houston	9	4	0	Detroit	8	5	0
Pittsburgh	8	5	0	Green Bay	8	5	0
Cleveland	6	7	0	Chicago	7	6	0
Cincinnati	1	12	0	Minnesota	6	7	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	4	9	0
Kansas City	9	4	0	NFC West			
Denver	8	5	0	San Francisco	9	4	0
L.A. Raiders	8	5	0	New Orleans	7	6	0
San Diego	6	7	0	Atlanta	6	7	0
Seattle	5	8	0	L.A. Rams	4	9	0

SCORES

AFC

Denver 27, Kansas City 21
Houston 19, Cleveland 17
L.A. Raiders 27, Seattle 23
New England 7, Cincinnati 2
Pittsburgh 21, Miami 20

NFC

Atlanta 27, San Francisco 24
Dallas 37, Minnesota 20
L.A. Rams 23, New Orleans 20
Detroit 21, Phoenix 14
Tampa Bay 13, Chicago 10

Interconference

Buffalo 10, Philadelphia 7
Green Bay 20, San Diego 13
N.Y. Giants 20, Indianapolis 6
N.Y. Jets 3, Washington 0

In winning their fifth consecutive game, the Giants rushed for 205 yards, including 173 and a touchdown by Rodney Hampton. Simms added a 17-yard touchdown pass to Chris Calloway.

ALL THE WAY WITH ELWAY—With John Elway and Joe Montana the opposing quarterbacks, Denver rallied twice to outlast Kansas City 27-21 and move within a game of the Chiefs in the AFC West.

"Grass field, dreary Sunday, two of the legends of the game...this was great," said Broncos guard Dave Widell.

One of those legends, Montana, threw 2 touchdown passes and guided the Chiefs to 14-3 and 21-17 leads. The other, Elway, fired 3 touchdown passes to tight end Shannon Sharpe, the last a 6-yard bullet that put the Broncos ahead for good, 24-21 with 10:34 left.

The winning touchdown was set up by reserve running back Reggie Rivers, who blocked a punt that set up Denver on the Chiefs' 11.

SOUTHERN SURPRISE—Riding a six-game winning streak, the 49ers led the Falcons 24-7 going into the fourth quarter at the Georgia Dome.

But Atlanta won the final period 20-0 and the game 27-24 as Norm Johnson tied the score and then won it on 47- and 37-yard field goals with 2:12 and 28 seconds left. It ran the Falcons' record to 6-7 after an 0-5 start.

"This team won't surrender," Atlanta head coach Jerry Glanville said. "Absolutely unbelievable. They pull themselves out of trouble every time they get into it."

Of course, they had help from the 49ers' Dexter Carter, who twice lost the ball on kick returns, setting up the touchdown that cut San Francisco's lead to 24-21 and the winning field goal.

Safety Charles Washington fell on Carter's muffed punt, and linebacker Ken Tippins grabbed his fumbled kickoff, which was stripped by linebacker Darion Conner. Bobby Hebert threw 3 touchdown passes for the Falcons, 2 to Andre Rison.

Although he made the winning kick, Johnson missed a 36-yard field goal in the first half, snapping his streak of successes at 26 in a row.

SOUTHERN SURPRISE II—Just 2:05 into the game, Saints linebacker Sam Mills returned a fumble by the Rams' Jerome Bettis 30 yards for a touchdown. But Bettis got even—and then some.

The former Notre Dame star became only the eighth NFL rookie ever to rush for 200 or more yards in a game as he bulled his way for 212 and scored on a 71-yard run—all despite sitting out the second quarter with a bruised abdomen. Los Angeles went on to win 23-20.

Marc Rubin

QUOTE

Patriots head coach **Bill Parcells**, after his team had beaten Cincinnati 7-2 to snap a seven-game losing streak:

"It wasn't Picasso or anything, but we're happy to win."

MONDAY NIGHT MAGIC—In Miami, the Steelers ran their season record on "Monday Night Football" to 3-0 by holding off the Dolphins 21-20. It was the second consecutive loss for Miami, now 9-4.

Pittsburgh's Leroy Thompson rushed for 81 yards, caught 4 passes for 61, and scored on 1- and 3-yard runs, while cornerback Rod Woodson and safety Carnell Lake had big games for the Steelers' NFL-leading defense.

Woodson forced a fumble that was recovered by Lake at the Steelers' 2, and the cornerback also killed the Dolphins' last threat by intercepting Steve DeBerg after Miami had reached its own 44-yard line with 15 seconds left. Lake intercepted a pass of his own and ran 26 yards before lateraling to Woodson for 18 more. That play set up the deciding touchdown.

NO, I'M KRAMER—Getting his first start of the season, Erik Kramer helped the Lions snap a three-game losing streak with 3 touchdown passes in a 21-14 victory over Phoenix. Derrick Moore, still subbing for injured Barry Sanders, helped out by rushing for 107 yards and catching 7 passes for 54 more. Rookie Ryan McNeil intercepted Steve Beuerlein's fourth-down pass at the Lions' goal line with 1:59 left. ◆

WINNING IS THE BOTTOM LINE

The streaking Oilers were outgained 410-257 by Cleveland, but still won their eighth consecutive game, rallying to edge the Browns 19-17.

Al Del Greco kicked 4 field goals, including the 25-yard game winner with 10:39 left after an interception by cornerback Cris Dishman. It was the fourth consecutive game in which Dishman had intercepted a pass. Houston's Gary Brown rushed for 109 yards.

Cleveland's Vinny Testaverde passed for 319 yards, including 49- and 28-yard touchdown passes to Eric Metcalf and Mark Carrier.

WEEK SIXTEEN • *December 18*

TRAGEDY AND TRIUMPH—It was a week the Houston Oilers never would forget.

On Tuesday, defensive tackle Jeff Alm, devastated by the death of his best friend in an auto accident (Alm was driving), shot himself to death minutes after the initial incident.

The Oilers mourned their fallen teammate for four days, then trounced Pittsburgh 26-17 on Sunday to clinch the AFC Central title.

"It was a very emotional week for us," quarterback Warren Moon said. "It was hard to put it out of our minds, but I think the team did a great job of staying focused. We wanted to win for Jeff. We're sending the game ball to his parents."

The emotional victory over the Steelers was Houston's ninth in a row, its longest winning streak since 1961.

Ron Vesely

Scottie Graham rushed for 139 yards to lead the Vikings.

The Oilers started fast. With 3:53 gone in the first quarter, Moon beat an all-out blitz with a screen pass to running back Gary Brown, who raced 38 yards for a touchdown. Just 1½ minutes later, safety Bo Orlando returned an interception of a Neil O'Donnell pass 38 yards for another score.

Then, the Oilers relied on 4 field goals by Al Del Greco and 6 sacks by their defense (2 by end Sean Jones) to keep their lead.

The victory was costly. Houston lost wide receiver Webster Slaughter, the AFC's leading receiver (77 catches), for the season with torn knee ligaments.

FOREVER YOUNG—With two weeks to go, four teams had qualified for the playoffs, including the Giants, 49ers, and Cowboys in the NFC. The 49ers not only sewed up a playoff berth, they also won their tenth Western Division title in 13 years by blitzing Detroit 55-17.

Steve Young, the NFL's leading passer, threw for 354 yards and 4 touchdowns. Meanwhile, the 49ers scored on 9 of their 11 series, never punted, and gained 565 yards.

"We lost a tough game [to Atlanta] last week, and we wanted to come back strong today," San Francisco's Jerry Rice said.

Rice came back strong all right, scoring on an 80-yard pass play and catching 4 passes for 132 yards. John Taylor also had a 100-yard game, catching 4 passes for 115 yards, including a 68-yard effort for the game's first touchdown.

RIDE 'EM, COWBOYS—The Super Bowl-champion Cowboys returned to the playoffs, breezing past the Jets 28-7 at the Meadowlands.

Troy Aikman fired 42- and 3-yard touchdown passes to Michael Irvin, while the defense forced 6 turnovers. Cornerback Kevin Smith returned an interception 32 yards for a touchdown.

HOT AND COLD—In New Orleans, Phil Simms threw touchdown passes to Mark Jackson and Howard Cross, and David Meggett returned a punt 75 yards for a touchdown as the Giants (who had clinched a playoff berth the week before) knocked off the Saints 24-14.

Who's That Guy?

Vikings running back Scottie Graham was on the team's practice squad until November, but injuries gave him a chance—and he took advantage of it. Graham rushed for 139 yards, while Jim McMahon threw 3 touchdown passes, 2 to Cris Carter, as Minnesota stayed in the NFC Central race with a 21-17 victory over Green Bay.

Safety Vencie Glenn saved the game twice, breaking up Brett Favre's fourth-down pass in the end zone with 1:14 left, and intercepting Favre at the Minnesota 14 with 46 seconds left when the Packers got the ball back.

It was the Giants' sixth win in a row, while the Saints had lost seven of their last nine games, including four in a row at home.

DEPTH CHARGERS-K.C.—The Chiefs kept their undisputed lead in the AFC West, thanks to Joe Montana and Dave Krieg.

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Houston's Gary Brown ran for 100 yards, caught 4 passes for 80 more.

The Chargers bolted to a 17-0 second-quarter lead, but Montana passed for 2 touchdowns and handed off to Marcus Allen for a third score as Kansas City rallied to win 28-24.

However, it was Krieg who fired the 28-yard touchdown pass to Willie Davis that gave the Chiefs a 28-17 lead and decided the game. He came in after Montana had suffered a mild concussion.

Kansas City's veteran cornerback Albert Lewis intercepted 2 passes. The first set up Krieg's touchdown pass; the second, at the Kansas City 22, stopped San Diego's final drive. Lewis had interceptions in five successive games.

THE GIFTS CAME EARLY—Six days before Christmas, the Bills scored 4 touchdowns after Miami turnovers to slam the Dolphins 47-34 and claim sole possession of first place in the AFC East.

"All of a sudden, we are playing like Santa Claus," grumbled Miami coach Don Shula, whose team lost its third in a row, all at home.

The Bills trailed 17-9 in the second quarter, but they erupted for 38 points in 13 minutes to take a 47-20 third-quarter lead.

In the 38-3 run, cornerbacks Mickey Washington and Nate Odomes scored on a 27-yard interception return and 25-yard fumble return, respectively, while safety Matt Darby and nose tackle Mike Lodish set up 2 more touchdowns with an interception and a fumble recovery.

FIVE-CARD MONTE—In Washington's 30-17 victory over Atlanta, 36-year-old linebacker Monte Coleman had (1) 2 sacks, (2) 13 other tackles, (3) a forced fumble, (4) a pass interception, and (5) a fumble return of 29 yards for the clinching touchdown with 2:11 left. ◆

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	10	4	0
Miami	9	5	0
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0
Indianapolis	4	10	0
New England	3	11	0
AFC Central			
Houston	10	4	0
Pittsburgh	8	6	0
Cleveland	6	8	0
Cincinnati	2	12	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	10	4	0
Denver	9	5	0
L.A. Raiders	9	5	0
San Diego	6	8	0
Seattle	5	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
N.Y. Giants	11	3	0
Dallas	10	4	0
Philadelphia	6	8	0
Phoenix	5	9	0
Washington	4	10	0
NFC Central			
Detroit	8	6	0
Green Bay	8	6	0
Chicago	7	7	0
Minnesota	7	7	0
Tampa Bay	4	10	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	10	4	0
New Orleans	7	7	0
Atlanta	6	8	0
L.A. Rams	4	10	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 17, Miami 34
Houston 26, Pittsburgh 17
Kansas City 28, San Diego 24
New England 20, Cleveland 17

NFC

Minnesota 21, Green Bay 17
N.Y. Giants 24, New Orleans 14
San Francisco 55, Detroit 17
Washington 30, Atlanta 17

Interconference

Cincinnati 15, L.A. Rams 3
Dallas 28, N.Y. Jets 7
Denver 13, Chicago 3
L.A. Raiders 27, Tampa Bay 20
Philadelphia 20, Indianapolis 10
Phoenix 30, Seattle 27 (OT)

FOOTBALL FAN FAVORITES

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WEEK SEVENTEEN • *December 25*

CHILL OUT? CHILL *IN*!–After the coldest game in Buffalo history, Bills kicker Steve Christie was thrilled to be back in the dressing room.

"I'm just feeling my toes now," he said. "I couldn't feel the ball. You know where the ball is, you think you know where your foot is, and hopefully, the two will meet."

Fortunately for Buffalo, the two met for 3 field goals. Christie's kicks lifted the Bills over the Jets 16-14 to clinch their fifth division title in six years. Christie's 40-yard field goal with 3:48 left won the game on a day when the wind-chill factor was minus-28 degrees.

John H. Reid III

The wind-chill factor was minus-28 as Buffalo won the AFC East.

It was an icy weekend in much of the NFL, with five of the league's 14 games played in below-zero wind chills. Meanwhile, five teams, including the Bills, qualified for the playoffs, increasing the total to nine.

While Christie was a hero, Jets kicker Cary Blanchard missed all 3 of his field-goal attempts, including one of 42 yards into swirling winds that could have won the game with 53 seconds left.

In defeat, New York's Johnny Johnson rushed for 94 yards and caught 8 passes for 81, including a 24-yard touchdown catch.

THIS PACK IS BACK—Not surprisingly, it was bitterly cold in Green Bay, too, where the Packers overpowered the Raiders 28-0 in the third-coldest game ever played at Lambeau Field. The wind-chill factor was minus-22.

In clinching their first playoff berth since 1982, the Packers sacked Raiders quarterbacks Jeff Hostetler and Vince Evans 8 times, including 2½ each by defensive end Reggie White, linebacker Tony Bennett, and nose tackle John Jurkovic.

"I'm protected by the layer of fat I've added during the season, just like a polar bear," Jurkovic said of his success in the cold.

Also having fun on the icy field was Sterling Sharpe, who caught 7 passes, including a 23-yard touchdown shot from Brett Favre. With 106 receptions, Sharpe became the first NFL receiver to record two 100-catch years. He had an NFL-record 108 in 1992.

ADVANCEMENT DEPT.—Detroit, Denver, and Kansas City also qualified for postseason play, although the Broncos and Chiefs went in backwards.

The Lions rallied for a 20-14 victory over the Bears in Soldier Field, where the wind-chill factor was minus-1. Erik Kramer passed for 2 touchdowns, including a 1-yard collaboration with rookie tight end Ty Hallock with 3:04 left to win the game. Playing in just his fourth game in two years, Detroit's Eric Lynch rushed for 85 yards and caught 7 passes for 46 more.

Mary Rubin

In Minneapolis, the Chiefs clinched their first AFC West title since 1971 when the Raiders and Broncos lost, but they didn't feel like celebrating after a one-sided 30-10 loss to the Vikings.

Minnesota's Scottie Graham rushed for 166 yards and a touchdown, and Jim McMahon threw 31- and 29-yard touchdown passes to Cris Carter as the Vikings kept their playoff hopes alive.

The weekend's most stunning game, however, took place in Denver, where Tampa Bay ended a 20-game road losing streak to AFC teams by knocking off the Broncos 17-10. Craig Erickson threw 2 touchdown passes.

Besides losing the game, Denver lost leading rusher Rod Bernstine for the season with a dislocated shoulder.

VINNY, VIDI, VICI—Sharpshooting Vinny Testaverde broke the NFL single-game record for completion percentage as he hit 21 of 23 passes (91.3 percent) to lead the Browns to a 42-14 rout of the Rams.

"It was so simple," grumbled Rams safety Anthony Newman, "It was just throw and catch."

Testaverde's totals included 8- and 28-yard touchdown passes to wide receiver Keenan McCardell.

ERIC-SISTIBLE!—Quarterbacks do not like Eric Allen.

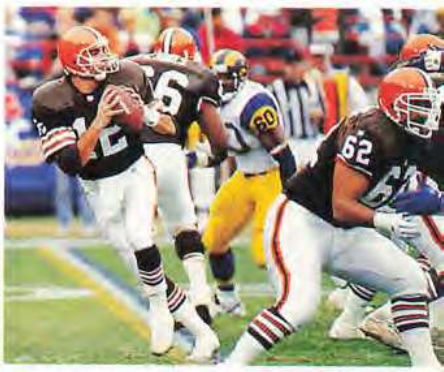
The Eagles' cornerback returned 2 interceptions of passes by Steve Walsh 33 and 25 yards for touchdowns to lead his team to a 37-26 victory over the Saints in Philadelphia. That gave Allen 4 interception returns for touchdowns this season, tying the NFL record.

"I think he's the best there is," Eagles coach Rich Kotite said. "He certainly showed it today."

Quarterback Bubby Brister had a good day, too, throwing 3 touchdown passes as the Eagles ignored a wind-chill of minus-12.

GIANT KILLERS—In Tempe, Arizona, the Cardinals trailed the Giants 6-0 at halftime, but charged back in the second half to win 17-6 and snap New York's six-game winning streak.

Phoenix rookie Ron Moore rushed for 135 yards (110 in the second half) and scored twice. ◆



Kevin Terrell/NFLP

Vinny Testaverde set an NFL record by completing 21 of 23 passes against the Rams.

STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	11	4	0
Miami	9	6	0
N.Y. Jets	8	7	0
Indianapolis	4	11	0
New England	4	11	0
AFC Central			
Houston	11	4	0
Pittsburgh	8	7	0
Cleveland	7	8	0
Cincinnati	3	12	0
AFC West			
Kansas City	10	5	0
Denver	9	6	0
L.A. Raiders	9	6	0
San Diego	7	8	0
Seattle	6	9	0

NFC East	W	L	T
Dallas	11	4	0
N.Y. Giants	11	4	0
Philadelphia	7	8	0
Phoenix	6	9	0
Washington	4	11	0
NFC Central			
Detroit	9	6	0
Green Bay	9	6	0
Minnesota	8	7	0
Chicago	7	8	0
Tampa Bay	5	10	0
NFC West			
San Francisco	10	5	0
New Orleans	7	8	0
Atlanta	6	9	0
L.A. Rams	4	11	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 16, N.Y. Jets 14
New England 38, Indianapolis 0
San Diego 45, Miami 20
Seattle 16, Pittsburgh 6

NFC

Dallas 38, Washington 3
Detroit 20, Chicago 14
Philadelphia 37, New Orleans 26
Phoenix 17, N.Y. Giants 6

Interconference

Cincinnati 21, Atlanta 17
Cleveland 42, L.A. Rams 14
Green Bay 28, L.A. Raiders 0
Houston 10, San Francisco 7
Minnesota 30, Kansas City 10
Tampa Bay 17, Denver 10

QUOTE

Minnesota's **Scottie Graham,** after rushing for 166 yards to lead his team to a 30-10 victory over the Chiefs:

"You've got to go after them and bite them."

WELL-OILERED MACHINE

On Christmas Day, the Oilers equaled a 31-year-old club record for consecutive regular-season victories (1961-62) by nosing out the 49ers 10-7 in a battle of teams already in the playoffs.

Houston's tenth consecutive victory ended the 49ers' club-record 13-game, regular-season winning streak at home. The Oilers did it with defense.

Cornerbacks Steve Jackson and Cris Dishman wiped out San Francisco drives with end-zone interceptions off Steve Young, while rookie safety Blaine Bishop sacked Young, forced a fumble, and recovered it to set up Houston's only touchdown. Linebacker Eddie Robinson blocked a 24-yard field-goal attempt.

WEEK EIGHTEEN • *December 31*

SHOULDERING THE LOAD—In a fiercely contested battle for the NFC East title, the Cowboys edged the Giants 16-13 in overtime—one of four overtime games on the final weekend of the regular season.

The final score doesn't begin to capture the drama of one of the most courageous performances in the NFL in years.

Dallas's Emmitt Smith rushed for 168 yards and caught 10 passes for 61 more. Astonishingly, he ran for 59 of those yards and caught 4 of those passes after separating his right shoulder with 1:58 left in the first half.

"The pain was so bad, I couldn't even describe it," Smith said later. "Every time somebody would come to pick me up after I was tackled, I would tell them I was okay. But I was lying."

Paul Spinelli/NFLP

Emmitt Smith rushed for 168 yards, despite a shoulder separation.

The pain was so bad he couldn't carry the ball in his right hand. But on the 52-yard drive that led to Eddie Murray's 41-yard, game-winning field goal, Smith handled the ball on 9 of Dallas's 11 plays.

The Cowboys led 13-0 at halftime, but the Giants, with Rodney Hampton rushing for 114 yards, earned a 13-13 tie with a rally that culminated in David Treadwell's 31-yard field goal with 10 seconds left in regulation.

With 1,486 yards this season, Smith became only the fourth back to win three consecutive NFL rushing titles. He also led the NFL in total yards from scrimmage with 1,900.

The Cowboys' fifth victory in a row also gave them the home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

ROARING LIONS—In Pontiac, Michigan, co-leaders Detroit and Green Bay met in another season-ending battle for first place. The Lions, who won their second NFC Central crown in three years, stopped the Packers 30-20.

Former reserve Eric Lynch rushed for 115 yards and scored twice for the Lions, while Jason Hanson kicked 37-, 53-, and 48-yard field goals. Mel Gray set up 10 points with 47- and 38-yard kickoff returns.

Green Bay's Sterling Sharpe caught 6 passes to finish with an NFL-record 112 receptions this season.

AND THEN THERE WERE 12—Three teams—the Raiders, Steelers, and Vikings—qualified for the playoffs to round out the field.

The Raiders had to rally from a 30-13 third-quarter deficit to edge Denver 33-30 in a frantic overtime game in Los Angeles. It was their eighth win in their last nine games with the Broncos.

Jeff Hostetler brought L.A. back, passing for 310 yards and 3 touchdowns, including a 4-yard collaboration with Alexander Wright that tied the score on the final play of regulation.

After Denver's Jason Elam missed a 40-yard field-goal attempt in overtime, Hostetler drove the Raiders 49 yards to a 47-yard, game-winning field goal by Jeff Jaeger, his fourth of the game. Jaeger's 35 field goals this season tied the NFL record.

Losing quarterback John Elway passed for 361 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 54- and 1-yard passes Shannon Sharpe.

MAC ATTACK—The Vikings earned a playoff berth by overcoming Washington 14-9 on New Year's Eve. Jim McMahon passed for 225 yards, led 69- and 76-yard touchdown drives, and threw an 11-yard touchdown strike to Anthony Carter.

THE LINEBACKER THAT ROARED—Trying to clinch an AFC playoff berth, the Steelers trailed the Browns 9-3 at halftime. Then Pittsburgh linebacker Greg Lloyd chewed out his own offense.

"He came in at halftime and was like a caged animal," center Dermontti Dawson said. "When a leader like him speaks the truth, you've got to respect what he says and respond. He was the key to us winning."

Lloyd's actions spoke as loud as his words. He forced 2 fumbles in the second half, both leading to field goals, while Neil O'Donnell passed to Eric Green for a touchdown as the Steelers earned a playoff bid, 16-9.

Cornerback D.J. Johnson saved the game by leaping to flick Vinny Testaverde's pass out of wide receiver Michael Jackson's hands in the end zone with two seconds left.

HOUSTON HAD PUNCH—The Oilers sailed into the playoffs with a club-record 11-game winning streak after they pounded the Jets 24-0. Their 12 victories were the most in team history.

Gary Brown caught a scoring pass, ran 16 yards for another touchdown, and finished with 1,002 rushing yards, despite starting just eight games.

Oilers defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan was as aggressive as his defense. After a sideline disagreement in the last minute of the first half, Ryan threw a punch at offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride before the two were separated. Ryan's defense had 6 sacks to finish with an NFL-leading 52 for the season.

SHUFFLE OFF TO BUFFALO—The three-time AFC-champion Bills clinched home-field advantage throughout the playoffs by routing the Colts 30-10 for their fourth consecutive victory. ◆

Tim Brown caught 11 passes, 2 for touchdowns, as the Raiders won 33-30.

Kevin Terrell/NFLP

FINAL 1993 STANDINGS

AFC East	W	L	T	NFC East	W	L	T
Buffalo	12	4	0	Dallas	12	4	0
Miami	9	7	0	N.Y. Giants	11	5	0
N.Y. Jets	8	8	0	Philadelphia	8	8	0
New England	5	11	0	Phoenix	7	9	0
Indianapolis	4	12	0	Washington	4	12	0
AFC Central				NFC Central			
Houston	12	4	0	Detroit	10	6	0
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	Minnesota	9	7	0
Cleveland	7	9	0	Green Bay	9	7	0
Cincinnati	3	13	0	Chicago	7	9	0
AFC West				Tampa Bay	5	11	0
Kansas City	11	5	0	NFC West			
L.A. Raiders	10	6	0	San Francisco	10	6	0
Denver	9	7	0	New Orleans	8	8	0
San Diego	8	8	0	Atlanta	6	10	0
Seattle	6	10	0	L.A. Rams	5	11	0

SCORES

AFC

Buffalo 30, Indianapolis 10
Houston 24, N.Y. Jets 0
Kansas City 34, Seattle 24
L.A. Raiders 33, Denver 30 (OT)
New England 33, Miami 27 (OT)
Pittsburgh 16, Cleveland 9

NFC

Dallas 16, N.Y. Giants 13 (OT)
Detroit 30, Green Bay 20
L.A. Rams 20, Chicago 6
Minnesota 14, Washington 9
Philadelphia 37, San Francisco 34 (OT)
Phoenix 27, Atlanta 10

Interconference

New Orleans 20, Cincinnati 13
San Diego 32, Tampa Bay 17

ENDANGERED DOLPHINS

Drew Bledsoe threw 4 touchdown passes, including a 36-yard effort to Michael Timpson in overtime that beat Miami 33-27. The Dolphins, who had the NFL's best record (9-2) in late November, lost their last five games and failed to make the playoffs. New England finished with four wins in a row.

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WEEK NINETEEN • *January 8*

AFC Playoffs

IT'S MONTANA TIME—Nick Lowery was happy, and relieved, too.

After missing a 43-yard field-goal attempt with 12 seconds left in regulation time, Lowery made a 32-yard kick late in overtime to give the Chiefs a 27-24 victory over the Steelers in the first of four exciting wild-card games.

"I guess you could say I was Freddy Krueger," Lowery said. "I came back from the dead today."

Lowery had come back because Joe Montana, hitting all 5 of his passes, had guided Kansas City 66 yards in overtime to set up the winning field-goal attempt.

Ron Vesely

The Chiefs' J.J. Birden caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from Dave Krieg (who briefly replaced Joe Montana).

In winning, Montana got a huge assist from backup tight end Keith Cash, who blocked a Pittsburgh punt with 2:29 left in the game with the Steelers leading 24-17. Kansas City's Fred Jones pulled the ball out of the air and returned it 31 yards to the Pittsburgh 9.

On fourth down, Montana fired a 7-yard touchdown pass to Tim Barnett that set up the tying conversion with 1:43 left.

The Chiefs got the ball back in time for a 47-yard march to the Pittsburgh 25, but Lowery's missed field goal sent the game to overtime.

For much of the day, however, Montana was overshadowed by Steelers quarterback Neil O'Donnell, who threw 3 touchdown passes, including a 22-yard collaboration with tight end Eric Green that put Pittsburgh ahead 24-17 with 4:11 left.

HABIT-FORMING—If there's such a thing as a football hex, the Raiders hold one over Denver.

For the second consecutive week, for the seventh time in a row in Los Angeles, and for the ninth time in 10 games overall, they defeated the Broncos, 42-24. A week earlier, the Raiders had rallied to win 33-30 in overtime.

"This is just one step," Raiders coach Art Shell said. "We're looking for bigger and better things."

The first half reminded everyone of an old AFL game. Every time L.A.'s Jeff Hostetler threw a touchdown pass—he threw 3 of them—Denver's John Elway countered with another. The score was tied 21-21 at intermission.

For the game, Hostetler passed for 294 yards on just 13 completions, helped out by touchdown bombs to Tim Brown (65 yards) and James Jett (54). But Elway passed for 302 yards himself, with 13 of his completions (1 for a touchdown) going to rising star Shannon Sharpe, who tied the NFL playoff record for receptions.

In the second half, however, the Raiders rushed for 99 yards to take command. Napoleon McCallum, who had undergone an emergency appendectomy just six weeks earlier, rushed for 3 touchdowns to tie the playoff record, scoring on 26-, 2-, and 1-yard runs.

NFC Playoffs

LAST-MINUTE HEROICS—Unlike the Raiders, the Lions were unable to defeat the same opponent two weeks in a row.

They led the Packers three times in the game, including 24-21 with time running out. But, with 55 seconds left, Green Bay's Brett Favre rolled left and threw an epic 40-yard touchdown pass back across the field to a wide-open Sterling Sharpe in the right corner of the end zone. Green Bay went on to win 28-24.

"To lose like that is a killer," Detroit linebacker Chris Spielman said. "They beat us on a play that will be shown over and over until the end of time."

Favre, who was intercepted 4 times in a 30-20 loss to the Lions the week before, was so excited that he fired his helmet 20 yards and started hugging everyone in sight.

"I was hyperventilating," he said. "I was looking for someone to kiss."

In all, the Green Bay quarterback threw 3 touchdown passes to Sharpe (who tied a playoff record), including 12- and 28-yard strikes. Rookie safety George Teague returned an interception of a pass by Erik Kramer a playoff-record 101 yards for another touchdown.

In defeat, the Lions outgained the Packers 410-293 as Barry Sanders, out with a knee injury since Thanksgiving, came back to rush for 169 yards. Brett Perriman caught 10 passes from Kramer for 150 yards and a touchdown.

WHEN L.T. TALKS...—It was halftime at the Meadowlands, the wind-chill factor was minus-5 degrees, and the Giants were losing 10-3 to the Vikings.

To Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor, this was unacceptable. The 10-time Pro Bowl selection bawled out his teammates in the locker room.

Bob Rosato

"I don't like to cuss in public anymore," Taylor said later, "but the young guys have to learn that you have to step it up in this thing called the playoffs. I think we learned."

Green Bay beat Detroit on Sterling Sharpe's last-minute 40-yard touchdown catch.

Apparently so. The Giants won the second half 14-0 and the game 17-10.

They tied the score 10-10 in the third minute of the third quarter when Rodney Hampton burst 51 yards down the right sideline for a touchdown with a big downfield block from wide receiver Chris Calloway.

Later in the quarter, after Minnesota's Harry Newsome punted only 21 yards, the Giants moved 26 yards for the decisive touchdown, with Hampton scoring from the 2.

Hampton had a big day, rushing for 161 yards on 33 carries, as New York controlled the ball for more than 35 minutes. Meanwhile, the Giants' defense held the Vikings to 11 first downs and sacked Jim McMahon and Sean Salisbury 3 times, 2 of them by end Keith Hamilton.

The Vikings had taken their 10-3 halftime lead on McMahon's 40-yard touchdown pass to Cris Carter and a 52-yard field goal by Fuad Reveiz. ◆

WEEK TWENTY • *January 15*

AFC Divisional Playoffs

SUPER JOE—Chiefs coach Marty Schottenheimer thought about Joe Montana for a moment.

"He's a tremendous source of confidence for whoever lines up with him," Schottenheimer said. "Guys who have been there before can make a difference. They can lift the others around them to another level."

Montana did it in San Francisco, where he led the 49ers to wins in four Super Bowls, and now he had taken the Chiefs to the AFC Championship Game—one step from the Super Bowl—for the first time since the AFL-NFL merger.

He did it by throwing 3 touchdown passes (7 yards to tight end Keith Cash and 11 and 18 yards to wide receivers J.J. Birden and Willie Davis) in Kansas City's 28-20 comeback victory over the Oilers in Houston. The victory lifted Montana's record to 16-5 as a starter in postseason play.

Bob Rosato

Steve Tasker's 67-yard kickoff return to the Raiders' 1 set up a Buffalo touchdown.

The outcome marked the seventh year in a row that the Oilers had been eliminated in the first or second round of the playoffs. The defeat also snapped an 11-game winning streak.

Houston's Warren Moon passed for 306 yards and a touchdown, but he was sacked 9 times by the blitzing Chiefs, including twice each by linebacker Derrick Thomas, tackle Dan Saleaumua, cornerback Albert Lewis, and safety Bennie Thompson.

The Oilers led 10-0 at halftime and 13-7 with 9:37 left, with Al Del Greco kicking 49- and 43-yard field goals after interceptions against Montana. But Montana's last 2 touchdown passes, thrown within 54 seconds of each other in the fourth quarter, put Kansas City ahead for good, 21-13 with 7:44 left.

Marcus Allen's 21-yard touchdown run clinched the victory with 1:55 left, after Houston had closed to 21-20.

BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE—As the Raiders took the field in Buffalo's Rich Stadium, a banner waving high in the stands read, "Just Freeze, Baby."

It was more than cold enough to freeze. The wind-chill factor reached minus-32, making it the coldest game in Buffalo history. Undeterred, the Bills rallied to knock the Raiders out of the playoffs 29-23.

The victory, Buffalo's fifth in a row this season and eighth in a row in the AFC playoffs, kept alive the Bills' quest for their fourth successive Super Bowl appearance.

"Everybody keeps saying that they don't want Buffalo in the Super Bowl," special teams star Steve Tasker said. "But we have only three words for that: We don't care."

Tasker cared enough on the field, returning a short kickoff 67 yards to the Raiders' 1 to set up his team's first touchdown. Meanwhile, Jim Kelly passed for 287 yards and 2 touchdowns, both to Bill Brooks (for 25 and 22 yards). The Bills' defense held the Raiders to 1 first down in the second half.

With Napoleon McCallum scoring twice on 1-yard runs, the Raiders led 17-6 in the second quarter and 17-13 at halftime. They led for the last time, 23-22 early in the fourth quarter, after Tim Brown turned a short Jeff Hostetler pass into an 86-yard touchdown play.

Immediately after Brown scored, Kelly drove the Bills 71 yards and hit Brooks from 22 yards for the deciding touchdown with 12:05 left.

NFC Divisional Playoffs

RUNNING WATTERS—Before the game, 49ers running back Ricky Watters raced around Candlestick Park slapping hands with San Francisco fans.

After the game started, he slapped down the Giants.

With Watters rushing for an NFL postseason-record 5 touchdowns, the 49ers overwhelmed New York 44-3 and advanced to the NFC Championship Game for the eighth time in 13 years.

Watters didn't slow down until he left the game early in the fourth quarter and Marc Logan ran for San Francisco's sixth and final touchdown. While he was in there, Watters not only scored 5 times (on 1-, 1-, 2-, 6-, and 2-yard runs), he also rushed for 118 yards and caught 5 passes for 46 more.

In addition, quarterback Steve Young hit 17 of 22 passes as the 49ers outgained the Giants 413-194. San Francisco led 16-0 before the Giants had a first down.

"I still can't believe we were able to run as well as we did," Watters said. "They have a tough defense."

The Giants had held each of their previous nine opponents to 17 or fewer points.

Joe Patronite

San Francisco's Ricky Watters scored a postseason-record 5 touchdowns.

RETURN OF THE COWBOYS—At Dallas, the Cowboys rolled past the upstart Packers 27-17 to set up a rematch with the 49ers, whom they beat in the NFC Championship Game last season.

"We played well enough to win, but we can play a lot sharper," Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said of the game with Green Bay.

Troy Aikman passed for 302 yards and 3 touchdowns, including 25- and 19-yard scoring passes to Alvin Harper and Michael Irvin and a 6-yard shot to tight end Jay Novacek.

The Cowboys broke open the game with a 10-point, 18-second blitz late in the first half. First, they expanded a 7-3 lead to 10-3 on Eddie Murray's 41-yard field goal with 23 seconds left.

On the ensuing kickoff, Kenneth Gant forced a fumble by Green Bay's Corey Harris, and Joe Fishback of Dallas recovered on the Packers' 14. On second down, with five seconds left in the half, Aikman passed to Novacek for the touchdown that made it 17-3.

Green Bay's Brett Favre passed for 331 yards and 2 touchdowns. ◆

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Address: _____

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City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Date of Birth: ___/___/___ (DAY / MO / YEAR) Child's Favorite NFL Team _____

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INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

AFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lg	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
John Elway, Denver	551	348	63.2	4030	7.31	25	4.5	63	10	1.8	92.8
Joe Montana, Kansas City	298	181	60.7	2144	7.19	13	4.4	50t	7	2.3	87.4
Vinny Testaverde, Cleveland	230	130	56.5	1797	7.81	14	6.1	62t	9	3.9	85.7
Boomer Esiason, N.Y. Jets	473	288	60.9	3421	7.23	16	3.4	77	11	2.3	84.5
Scott Mitchell, Miami	233	133	57.1	1773	7.61	12	5.2	77t	8	3.4	84.2
Jeff Hostetler, Raiders	419	236	56.3	3242	7.74	14	3.3	74t	10	2.4	82.5
Jim Kelly, Buffalo	470	288	61.3	3382	7.20	18	3.8	65t	18	3.8	79.9
Neil O'Donnell, Pittsburgh	486	270	55.6	3208	6.60	14	2.9	71t	7	1.4	79.5
Jeff George, Indianapolis	407	234	57.5	2526	6.21	8	2.0	72t	6	1.5	76.3
Steve DeBerg, T.B.-Miami	227	136	59.9	1707	7.52	7	3.1	47	10	4.4	75.3

NFC LEADING PASSERS

	Att	Comp	Pct Comp	Yds	Avg Gain	TD	Pct TD	Lg	Int	Pct Int	Rating Points
Steve Young, San Francisco	462	314	68.0	4023	8.71	29	6.3	80t	16	3.5	101.5
Troy Aikman, Dallas	392	271	69.1	3100	7.91	15	3.8	80t	6	1.5	99.0
Phil Simms, N.Y. Giants	400	247	61.8	3038	7.60	15	3.8	62	9	2.3	88.3
Bubby Brister, Philadelphia	309	181	58.6	1905	6.17	14	4.5	58	5	1.6	84.9
Bobby Hebert, Atlanta	430	263	61.2	2978	6.93	24	5.6	98t	17	4.0	84.0
Steve Beuerlein, Phoenix	418	258	61.7	3164	7.57	18	4.3	65t	17	4.1	82.5
Jim McMahon, Minnesota	331	200	60.4	1967	5.94	9	2.7	58	8	2.4	76.2
Brett Favre, Green Bay	522	318	60.9	3303	6.33	19	3.6	66t	24	4.6	72.2
Jim Harbaugh, Chicago	325	200	61.5	2002	6.16	7	2.2	48	11	3.4	72.1
Wade Wilson, New Orleans	388	221	57.0	2457	6.33	12	3.1	42t	15	3.9	70.1

AFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Thurman Thomas, Buffalo	355	1315	3.7	27	6
Leonard Russell, New England	300	1088	3.6	21	7
Chris Warren, Seattle	273	1072	3.9	45t	7
Gary Brown, Houston	195	1002	5.1	26	6
Johnny Johnson, N.Y. Jets	198	821	4.1	57t	3
Rod Bernstine, Denver	223	816	3.7	24	4
Marcus Allen, Kansas City	206	764	3.7	39	12
Leroy Thompson, Pittsburgh	205	763	3.7	36	3
Marion Butts, San Diego	185	746	4.0	27	4
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh	177	711	4.0	38	8

Kevin Terrell/NFLP

Eric Metcalf, AFC punt return leader

NFC LEADING RUSHERS

	Att	Yards	Avg	Lg	TD
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	283	1486	5.3	62t	9
Jerome Bettis, L.A. Rams	294	1429	4.4	71t	7
Erric Pegram, Atlanta	292	1185	4.1	29	3
Barry Sanders, Detroit	243	1115	4.6	42	3
Rodney Hampton, N.Y. Giants	292	1077	3.7	20	5
Reggie Brooks, Washington	223	1063	4.8	85t	3
Ron Moore, Phoenix	263	1018	3.9	20	9
Ricky Watters, San Francisco	208	950	4.6	39	10
Herschel Walker, Philadelphia	174	746	4.3	35	1
Derek Brown, New Orleans	180	705	3.9	60	2

AFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Marcus Allen, Kansas City	15	12	3	0	90
Barry Foster, Pittsburgh	9	8	1	0	54
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	9	0	9	0	54
Gary Brown, Houston	8	6	2	0	48
Tim Brown, Raiders	8	0	7	1	48
Ben Coates, New England	8	0	8	0	48
Robert Delpino, Denver	8	8	0	0	48
Michael Jackson, Cleveland	8	0	8	0	48
Natrone Means, San Diego	8	8	0	0	48

NFC LEADING SCORERS, TOUCHDOWNS

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	16	1	15	0	96
Andre Rison, Atlanta	15	0	15	0	90
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay	11	0	11	0	66
Ricky Watters, San Francisco	11	10	1	0	66
Edgar Bennett, Green Bay	10	9	1	0	60
Emmitt Smith, Dallas	10	9	1	0	60
Calvin Williams, Philadelphia	10	0	10	0	60
Cris Carter, Minnesota	9	0	9	0	54
Ron Moore, Phoenix	9	9	0	0	54

AFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
Jeff Jaeger, Raiders	27/29	35/44	53	132
Al Del Greco, Houston	39/40	29/34	52	126
John Carney, San Diego	31/33	31/40	51	124
Jason Elam, Denver	41/42	26/35	54	119
Gary Anderson, Pittsburgh	32/32	28/30	46	116
Pete Stoyanovich, Miami	37/37	24/32	52	109
Nick Lowery, Kansas City	37/37	23/29	52	106
Steve Christie, Buffalo	36/37	23/32	59	105
John Kasay, Seattle	29/29	23/28	55	98
Dean Biasucci, Indianapolis	15/16	26/31	53	93

NFC LEADING SCORERS, KICKING

	PAT	FG	Lg	Pts
Jason Hanson, Detroit	28/28	34/43	53	130
Chris Jacke, Green Bay	35/35	31/37	54	128
Eddie Murray, Dallas	38/38	28/33	52	122
Morten Andersen, New Orleans	33/33	28/35	56	117
Norm Johnson, Atlanta	34/34	26/27	54	112
Mike Cofer, San Francisco	59/61	16/26	46	107
Fuad Reveiz, Minnesota	27/28	26/35	51	105
David Treadwell, N.Y. Giants	28/29	25/31	46	103
Kevin Butler, Chicago	21/22	27/36	55	102
Greg Davis, Phoenix	37/37	21/28	55	100

AFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Reggie Langhorne, Indianapolis	85	1038	12.2	72t	3
Anthony Miller, San Diego	84	1162	13.8	66t	7
Shannon Sharpe, Denver	81	995	12.3	63	9
Tim Brown, Raiders	80	1180	14.8	71t	7
Brian Blades, Seattle	80	945	11.8	41	3
Webster Slaughter, Houston	77	904	11.7	41	5
Terry Kirby, Miami	75	874	11.7	47	3
Ronnie Harmon, San Diego	73	671	9.2	37	2
Ernest Givins, Houston	68	887	13.0	80t	4
Pete Metzelaars, Buffalo	68	609	9.0	51	4

NFC LEADING RECEIVERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Sterling Sharpe, Green Bay	112	1274	11.4	54	11
Jerry Rice, San Francisco	98	1503	15.3	80t	15
Michael Irvin, Dallas	88	1330	15.1	61t	7
Andre Rison, Atlanta	86	1242	14.4	53t	15
Cris Carter, Minnesota	86	1071	12.5	58	9
Herschel Walker, Philadelphia	75	610	8.1	55	3
Mike Pritchard, Atlanta	74	736	9.9	34	7
Michael Haynes, Atlanta	72	778	10.8	98t	4
Brent Jones, San Francisco	68	735	10.8	29	3
Eric Martin, New Orleans	66	950	14.4	54t	3
Larry Centers, Phoenix	66	603	9.1	29	3

AFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Greg Montgomery, Houston	54	2462	77	45.6
Tom Rouen, Denver	67	3017	62	45.0
Rick Tuten, Seattle	90	4007	64	44.5
Brian Hansen, Cleveland	82	3632	72	44.3
Lee Johnson, Cincinnati	90	3954	60	43.9
Rohn Stark, Indianapolis	83	3595	65	43.3
John Kidd, San Diego	57	2431	67	42.6
Bryan Barker, Kansas City	76	3240	59	42.6
Mark Royals, Pittsburgh	89	3781	61	42.5
Mike Saxon, New England	73	3096	59	42.4

NFC LEADING PUNTERS

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Jim Arnold, Detroit	72	3207	68	44.5
Reggie Roby, Washington	78	3447	60	44.2
Rich Camarillo, Phoenix	73	3189	61	43.7
Tommy Barnhardt, New Orleans	77	3356	58	43.6
Harold Alexander, Atlanta	72	3114	75	43.3
Harry Newsome, Minnesota	90	3864	64	42.9
Bryan Wagner, Green Bay	74	3174	60	42.9
Sean Landeta, N.Y. Giants-L.A. Rams	75	3215	66	42.9
Mike Horan, N.Y. Giants	44	1882	60	42.8
John Jett, Dallas	56	2342	59	41.8

AFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Eric Metcalf, Cleveland	36	464	12.9	91t	2
Darrien Gordon, San Diego	31	395	12.7	54	0
Tim Brown, Raiders	40	465	11.6	74t	1
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	28	317	11.3	72t	2
Glyn Milburn, Denver	40	425	10.6	54	0
Dale Carter, Kansas City	27	247	9.1	30	0
Troy Brown, New England	25	224	9.0	19	0
Russell Copeland, Buffalo	31	274	8.8	47t	1
Ron Harris, New England	23	201	8.7	21	0
Kelvin Martin, Seattle	32	270	8.4	33	0

Bob Rosato

Deion Sanders, leading NFC interceptor

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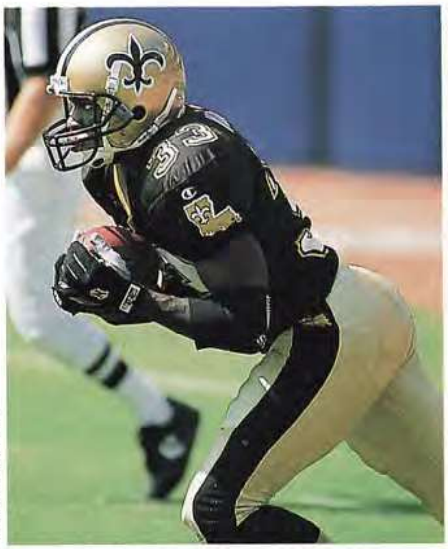

Mark Sherenge/NFLP

Tyrone Hughes, top NFC punt returner

NFC LEADING PUNT RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans	37	503	13.6	83t	2
Dexter Carter, San Francisco	34	411	12.1	72t	1
Kevin Williams, Dallas	36	381	10.6	64t	2
David Meggett, N.Y. Giants	32	331	10.3	75t	1
Mel Gray, Detroit	23	197	8.6	35	0
Vai Sikahema, Philadelphia	33	275	8.3	25	0
Terry Obee, Chicago	35	289	8.3	28	0
Johnny Bailey, Phoenix	35	282	8.1	58t	1
Tony Smith, Atlanta	32	255	8.0	51	0
Eric Guliford, Minnesota	29	212	7.3	50	0

AFC LEADING KICK RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Raghib Ismail, L.A. Raiders	25	605	24.2	66	0
O.J. McDuffie, Miami	32	755	23.6	48	0
Eric Ball, Cincinnati	23	501	21.8	45	0
Clarence Verdin, Indianapolis	50	1050	21.0	38	0
Ray Crittenden, New England	23	478	20.8	44	0
Nate Lewis, San Diego	33	684	20.7	60	0
Michael Bates, Seattle	30	603	20.1	46	0
Patrick Robinson, Cincinnati	30	567	18.9	42	0
Randy Baldwin, Cleveland	24	444	18.5	31	0
Russell Copeland, Buffalo	24	436	18.2	28	0

NFC LEADING KICK RETURNERS

	No	Yds	Avg	Lg	TD
Robert Brooks, Green Bay	23	611	26.6	95t	1
Tyrone Hughes, New Orleans	30	753	25.1	99t	1
Tony Smith, Atlanta	38	948	24.9	97t	1
Mel Gray, Detroit	28	688	24.6	95t	1
Johnny Bailey, Phoenix	31	699	22.5	48	0
Kevin Williams, Dallas	31	689	22.2	49	0
Qadry Ismail, Minnesota	42	902	21.5	47	0
Curtis Conway, Chicago	21	450	21.4	55	0
Fred McAfee, New Orleans	28	580	20.7	55	0
Brian Mitchell, Washington	33	678	20.5	68	0

AFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Eugene Robinson, Seattle	9	80	28	0
Nate Odomes, Buffalo	9	65	25	0
Rod Woodson, Pittsburgh	8	138	63t	1
Marcus Robertson, Houston	7	137	69	0
Darren Carrington, San Diego	7	104	28	0
Brian Washington, N.Y. Jets	6	128	62t	1
Cris Dishman, Houston	6	74	30	0
Albert Lewis, Kansas City	6	61	24	0

NFC LEADING INTERCEPTORS

	Int	Yds	Lg	TD
Deion Sanders, Atlanta	7	91	41	0
Eric Allen, Philadelphia	6	201	94t	4
LeRoy Butler, Green Bay	6	131	39	0
Kevin Smith, Dallas	6	56	32t	1
Tom Carter, Washington	6	54	29	0
Michael McGruder, San Francisco	5	89	37	1
Vencie Glenn, Minnesota	5	49	23	0

1994 PRO BOWL ROSTERS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Tim Brown, *L.A. Raiders*
*Webster Slaughter, *Houston*
Anthony Miller, *San Diego*
Andre Reed, *Buffalo*

Tackles
*Howard Ballard, *Buffalo*
*Richmond Webb, *Miami*
John Alt, *Kansas City*

Guards
*Mike Munchak, *Houston*
*Steve Wisniewski, *L.A. Raiders*
Keith Sims, *Miami*

Centers
*Bruce Matthews, *Houston*
Dermontti Dawson, *Pittsburgh*

Tight Ends
*Shannon Sharpe, *Denver*
Keith Jackson, *Miami*

Quarterbacks
*John Elway, *Denver*
Joe Montana, *Kansas City*
Warren Moon, *Houston*

Fullback
Keith Byars, *Miami*

Running Backs
*Marcus Allen, *Kansas City*
*Thurman Thomas, *Buffalo*
Barry Foster, *Pittsburgh*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Bruce Smith, *Buffalo*
*Neil Smith, *Kansas City*
Leslie O'Neal, *San Diego*

Tackles
*Ray Childress, *Houston*
*Cortez Kennedy, *Seattle*
Michael Dean Perry, *Cleveland*

Outside Linebackers
*Derrick Thomas, *Kansas City*
*Greg Lloyd, *Pittsburgh*
Cornelius Bennett, *Buffalo*

Inside Linebackers
*Junior Seau, *San Diego*
Karl Mecklenburg, *Denver*

Cornerbacks
*Nate Odomes, *Buffalo*
*Rod Woodson, *Pittsburgh*
Terry McDaniel, *L.A. Raiders*

Safeties
*Steve Atwater, *Denver*
*Dennis Smith, *Denver*
Eugene Robinson, *Seattle*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Greg Montgomery, *Houston*

Kicker
Gary Anderson, *Pittsburgh*

Kick Returner
Eric Metcalf, *Cleveland*

Special Teamer
Steve Tasker, *Buffalo*

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

OFFENSE

Wide Receivers
*Michael Irvin, *Dallas*
*Jerry Rice, *San Francisco*
Andre Rison, *Atlanta*
Sterling Sharpe, *Green Bay*

Tackles
*Harris Barton, *San Francisco*
*Erik Williams, *Dallas*
John Elliott, *N.Y. Giants*

Guards
*Randall McDaniel, *Minnesota*
*Nate Newton, *Dallas*
Guy McIntyre, *San Francisco*

Centers
*Mark Stepnoski, *Dallas*
Jesse Sapolu, *San Francisco*

Tight Ends
*Jay Novacek, *Dallas*
Brent Jones, *San Francisco*

Quarterbacks
*Troy Aikman, *Dallas*
Steve Young, *San Francisco*
Phil Simms, *N.Y. Giants*

Fullback
Daryl Johnston, *Dallas*

Running Backs
*Emmitt Smith, *Dallas*
*Barry Sanders, *Detroit*
Jerome Bettis, *L.A. Rams*

DEFENSE

Ends
*Richard Dent, *Chicago*
*Reggie White, *Green Bay*
Chris Doleman, *Minnesota*

Tackles
*Sean Gilbert, *L.A. Rams*
*John Randle, *Minnesota*
Russell Maryland, *Dallas*

Outside Linebackers
*Rickey Jackson, *New Orleans*
*Renaldo Turnbull, *New Orleans*
Pat Swilling, *Detroit*

Inside Linebackers
*Hardy Nickerson, *Tampa Bay*
Ken Norton, *Dallas*

Cornerbacks
*Eric Allen, *Philadelphia*
*Deion Sanders, *Atlanta*
Donnell Woolford, *Chicago*

Safeties
*Mark Carrier, *Chicago*
*Tim McDonald, *San Francisco*
Thomas Everett, *Dallas*

SPECIALISTS

Punter
Rich Camarillo, *Phoenix*

Kicker
Norm Johnson, *Atlanta*

Kick Returner
Tyrone Hughes, *New Orleans*

Special Teamer
Elbert Shelley, *Atlanta*

**denotes starters*

THANKS, TEACH!

NFL PLAYERS HAVE HEROES, TOO

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award gives NFL players a chance to thank the men and women who inspired them as youngsters in the classroom.

Each year, NFL players nominate their former school teachers...and every month during the NFL season one of these educators is honored as the NFL Teacher of the Month.

Presented here are the four monthly winners from 1993 and the former students (now NFL players) who nominated them (below). Each teacher received a $2,500 grant from the NFL, and the school where the teacher and player met was presented a $5,000 scholarship fund.

Marilou Winkler (left), who was nominated by Andy Heck of the Seattle Seahawks, is the 1993 NFL Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Winkler will be honored at this year's Pro Bowl in Honolulu, where she will be presented a $5,000 grant. Her school, Canterbury Woods Elementary in Annandale, Virginia, will receive a $10,000 scholarship fund.

Congratulations from the National Football League to all of America's outstanding teachers!

SEPTEMBER
Pat Holder
East Central High School
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Tony Casillas, DT
Dallas Cowboys

OCTOBER
Carl Williams
Westover High School
Albany, Georgia
Bart Oates, C
New York Giants

NOVEMBER
Judy Chapman
L.D. Bell High School
Hurst, Texas
Tommy Maddox, QB
Denver Broncos

DECEMBER
Woody Freeman
Fort Valley Middle School
Fort Valley, Georgia
Antone Davis, T
Philadelphia Eagles

The NFL Teacher of the Month Award **Saluting Excellence in Education!**

Teacher of the Month

AFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS

BUFFALO BILLS

Sept. 5	NEW ENGLAND	38-14
Sept. 12	at Dallas	13-10
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	MIAMI	13-22
Oct. 3	N.Y. GIANTS	17-14
Oct. 11	HOUSTON (Mon.)	35-7
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	at N.Y. Jets	19-10
Nov. 1	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	24-10
Nov. 7	at New England	13-10
Nov. 15	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	0-23
Nov. 21	INDIANAPOLIS	23-9
Nov. 28	at Kansas City	7-23
Dec. 5	L.A. RAIDERS	24-25
Dec. 12	at Philadelphia	10-7
Dec. 19	at Miami	47-34
Dec. 26	N.Y. JETS	16-14
Jan. 2	at Indianapolis	30-10
W12 L4		**329-242**

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Sept. 5	at Cleveland	14-27
Sept. 12	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
Sept. 19	at Pittsburgh	7-34
Sept. 26	SEATTLE	10-19
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 10	at Kansas City	15-17
Oct. 17	CLEVELAND	17-28
Oct. 24	at Houston	12-28
Oct. 31	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 7	PITTSBURGH	16-24
Nov. 14	HOUSTON	3-38
Nov. 21	at N.Y. Jets	12-17
Nov. 28	L.A. RAIDERS	16-10
Dec. 5	at San Francisco	8-21
Dec. 12	at New England	2-7
Dec. 19	L.A. RAMS	15-3
Dec. 26	ATLANTA	21-17
Jan. 2	at New Orleans	13-20
W3 L13		**187-319**

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Sept. 5	CINCINNATI	27-14
Sept. 13	SAN FRANCISCO (Mon.)	23-13
Sept. 19	at L.A. Raiders	19-16
Sept. 26	at Indianapolis	10-23
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 10	MIAMI	14-24
Oct. 17	at Cincinnati	28-17
Oct. 24	PITTSBURGH	28-23
Oct. 31	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 7	DENVER	14-29
Nov. 14	at Seattle	5-22
Nov. 21	HOUSTON	20-27
Nov. 28	at Atlanta	14-17
Dec. 5	NEW ORLEANS	17-13
Dec. 12	at Houston	17-19
Dec. 19	NEW ENGLAND	17-20
Dec. 26	at L.A. Rams	42-14
Jan. 2	at Pittsburgh	9-16
W7 L9		**304-307**

DENVER BRONCOS

Sept. 5	at N.Y. Jets	26-20
Sept. 12	SAN DIEGO	34-17
Sept. 20	at Kansas City (Mon.)	7-15
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	INDIANAPOLIS	35-13
Oct. 10	at Green Bay	27-30
Oct. 18	L.A. RAIDERS (Mon.)	20-23
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	SEATTLE	28-17
Nov. 7	at Cleveland	29-14
Nov. 14	MINNESOTA	23-26
Nov. 21	PITTSBURGH	37-13
Nov. 28	at Seattle	17-9
Dec. 5	at San Diego	10-13
Dec. 12	KANSAS CITY	27-21
Dec. 18	at Chicago (Sat.)	13-3
Dec. 26	TAMPA BAY	10-17
Jan. 2	at L.A. Raiders*	30-33
W9 L7		**373-284**

HOUSTON OILERS

Sept. 5	at New Orleans	21-33
Sept. 12	KANSAS CITY	30-0
Sept. 19	at San Diego	17-18
Sept. 26	L.A. RAMS	13-28
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 11	at Buffalo (Mon.)	7-35
Oct. 17	at New England	28-14
Oct. 24	CINCINNATI	28-12
Oct. 31	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 7	SEATTLE	24-14
Nov. 14	at Cincinnati	38-3
Nov. 21	at Cleveland	27-20
Nov. 28	PITTSBURGH	23-3
Dec. 5	ATLANTA	33-17
Dec. 12	CLEVELAND	19-17
Dec. 19	at Pittsburgh	20-17
Dec. 25	at San Francisco (Sat.)	10-7
Jan. 2	N.Y. JETS	24-0
W12 L4		**368-238**

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

Sept. 5	MIAMI	20-24
Sept. 12	at Cincinnati	9-6
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	CLEVELAND	23-10
Oct. 3	at Denver	13-35
Oct. 10	DALLAS	3-27
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	at Miami	27-41
Oct. 31	NEW ENGLAND	9-6
Nov. 7	at Washington	24-30
Nov. 14	N.Y. JETS	17-31
Nov. 21	at Buffalo	9-23
Nov. 29	SAN DIEGO (Mon.)	0-31
Dec. 5	at N.Y. Jets	9-6
Dec. 12	at N.Y. Giants	6-20
Dec. 19	PHILADELPHIA	10-20
Dec. 26	at New England	0-38
Jan. 2	BUFFALO	10-30
W4 L12		**189-378**

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Sept. 5	at Tampa Bay	27-3
Sept. 12	at Houston	0-30
Sept. 20	DENVER (Mon.)	15-7
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	L.A. RAIDERS	24-9
Oct. 10	CINCINNATI	17-15
Oct. 17	at San Diego	17-14
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	at Miami	10-30
Nov. 8	GREEN BAY (Mon.)	23-16
Nov. 14	at L.A. Raiders	31-20
Nov. 21	CHICAGO	17-19
Nov. 28	BUFFALO	23-7
Dec. 5	at Seattle	31-16
Dec. 12	at Denver	21-27
Dec. 19	SAN DIEGO	28-24
Dec. 26	at Minnesota	10-30
Jan. 2	SEATTLE	34-24
W11 L5		**328-291**

LOS ANGELES RAIDERS

Sept.5	MINNESOTA	24-7
Sept. 12	at Seattle	17-13
Sept. 19	CLEVELAND	16-19
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	at Kansas City	9-24
Oct. 10	N.Y. JETS	24-20
Oct. 18	at Denver (Mon.)	23-20
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	SAN DIEGO	23-30
Nov. 7	at Chicago	16-14
Nov. 14	KANSAS CITY	20-31
Nov. 21	at San Diego	12-7
Nov. 28	at Cincinnati	10-16
Dec. 5	at Buffalo	25-24
Dec. 12	SEATTLE	27-23
Dec. 19	TAMPA BAY	27-20
Dec. 26	at Green Bay	0-28
Jan. 2	DENVER*	33-30
W10 L6		**306-326**

MIAMI DOLPHINS

Sept. 5	at Indianapolis	24-20
Sept. 12	N.Y. JETS	14-24
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	at Buffalo	22-13
Oct. 4	WASHINGTON (Mon.)	17-10
Oct. 10	at Cleveland	24-14
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	INDIANAPOLIS	41-27
Oct. 31	KANSAS CITY	30-10
Nov. 7	at N.Y. Jets	10-27
Nov. 14	at Philadelphia	19-14
Nov. 21	NEW ENGLAND	17-13
Nov. 25	at Dallas (Thanks.)	16-14
Dec. 5	N.Y. GIANTS	14-19
Dec. 13	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	20-21
Dec. 19	BUFFALO	34-47
Dec. 27	at San Diego (Mon.)	20-45
Jan. 2	at New England*	27-33
W9 L7		**349-351**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Sept. 5	at Buffalo	14-38
Sept. 12	DETROIT*	16-19
Sept. 19	SEATTLE	14-17
Sept. 26	at N.Y. Jets	7-45
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 10	at Phoenix	23-21
Oct. 17	HOUSTON	14-28
Oct. 24	at Seattle	9-10
Oct. 31	at Indianapolis	6-9
Nov. 7	BUFFALO*	10-13
Nov. 14	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 21	at Miami	13-17
Nov. 28	N.Y. JETS	0-6
Dec. 5	at Pittsburgh	14-17
Dec. 12	CINCINNATI	7-2
Dec. 19	at Cleveland	20-17
Dec. 26	INDIANAPOLIS	38-0
Jan. 2	MIAMI*	33-27
W5 L11		**238-286**

NEW YORK JETS

Sept. 5	DENVER	20-26
Sept. 12	at Miami	24-14
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	NEW ENGLAND	45-7
Oct. 3	PHILADELPHIA	30-35
Oct. 10	at L.A. Raiders	20-24
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	BUFFALO	10-19
Oct. 31	at N.Y. Giants	10-6
Nov. 7	MIAMI	27-10
Nov. 14	at Indianapolis	31-17
Nov. 21	CINCINNATI	17-12
Nov. 28	at New England	6-0
Dec. 5	INDIANAPOLIS	6-9
Dec. 11	at Washington	3-0
Dec. 18	DALLAS (Sat.)	7-28
Dec. 26	at Buffalo	14-16
Jan. 2	at Houston	0-24
W8 L8		**270-247**

PITTSBURGH STEELERS

Sept. 5	SAN FRANCISCO	13-24
Sept. 12	at L.A. Rams	0-27
Sept. 19	CINCINNATI	34-7
Sept. 27	at Atlanta (Mon.)	45-17
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 10	SAN DIEGO	16-3
Oct. 17	NEW ORLEANS	37-14
Oct. 24	at Cleveland	23-28
Oct. 31	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 7	at Cincinnati	24-16
Nov. 15	BUFFALO (Mon.)	23-0
Nov. 21	at Denver	13-37
Nov. 28	at Houston	3-23
Dec. 5	NEW ENGLAND	17-14
Dec. 13	at Miami (Mon.)	21-20
Dec. 19	HOUSTON	17-26
Dec. 26	at Seattle	6-16
Jan. 2	CLEVELAND	16-9
W9 L7		**308-281**

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS

Sept. 5	SEATTLE	18-12
Sept. 12	at Denver	17-34
Sept. 19	HOUSTON	18-17
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	at Seattle	14-31
Oct. 10	at Pittsburgh	3-16
Oct. 17	KANSAS CITY	14-17
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	at L.A. Raiders	30-23
Nov. 7	at Minnesota	30-17
Nov. 14	CHICAGO	13-16
Nov. 21	L.A. RAIDERS	7-12
Nov. 29	at Indianapolis (Mon.)	31-0
Dec. 5	DENVER	13-10
Dec. 12	GREEN BAY	13-20
Dec. 19	at Kansas City	24-28
Dec. 27	MIAMI (Mon.)	45-20
Jan. 2	at Tampa Bay	32-17
W8 L8		**322-290**

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Sept. 5	at San Diego	12-18
Sept. 12	L.A. RAIDERS	13-17
Sept. 19	at New England	17-14
Sept. 26	at Cincinnati	19-10
Oct. 3	SAN DIEGO	31-14
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	at Detroit	10-30
Oct. 24	NEW ENGLAND	10-9
Oct. 31	at Denver	17-28
Nov. 7	at Houston	14-24
Nov. 14	CLEVELAND	22-5
Nov. 21	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 28	DENVER	9-17
Dec. 5	KANSAS CITY	16-31
Dec. 12	at L.A. Raiders	23-27
Dec. 19	PHOENIX*	27-30
Dec. 26	PITTSBURGH	16-6
Jan. 2	at Kansas City	24-34
W6 L10		**280-314**

1993 AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Buffalo	12	4	0	.750	329	242
Miami	9	7	0	.563	349	351
New York Jets	8	8	0	.500	270	247
New England	5	11	0	.313	238	286
Indianapolis	4	12	0	.250	189	378
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Houston	12	4	0	.750	368	238
Pittsburgh	9	7	0	.563	308	281
Cleveland	7	9	0	.438	304	307
Cincinnati	3	13	0	.188	187	319
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	328	291
Los Angeles Raiders	10	6	0	.625	306	326
Denver	9	7	0	.563	373	284
San Diego	8	8	0	.500	322	290
Seattle	6	10	0	.375	280	314

*Overtime

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NFC RESULTS AND STANDINGS

ATLANTA FALCONS

Sept. 5	at Detroit	13-30
Sept. 12	NEW ORLEANS	31-34
Sept. 19	at San Francisco	30-37
Sept. 27	PITTSBURGH (Mon.)	17-45
Oct. 3	at Chicago	0-6
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	L.A. RAMS (Thur.)	30-24
Oct. 24	at New Orleans	26-15
Oct. 31	TAMPA BAY	24-31
Nov. 7	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 14	at L.A. Rams	13-0
Nov. 21	DALLAS	27-14
Nov. 28	CLEVELAND	17-14
Dec. 5	at Houston	17-33
Dec. 11	SAN FRANCISCO (Sat.)	27-24
Dec. 19	at Washington	17-30
Dec. 26	at Cincinnati	17-21
Jan. 2	PHOENIX	10-27
W6 L10		**316-385**

CHICAGO BEARS

Sept. 5	N.Y. GIANTS	20-26
Sept. 12	at Minnesota	7-10
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	TAMPA BAY	47-17
Oct. 3	ATLANTA	6-0
Oct. 10	at Philadelphia	17-6
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 25	MINNESOTA (Mon.)	12-19
Oct. 31	at Green Bay	3-17
Nov. 7	L.A. RAIDERS	14-16
Nov. 14	at San Diego	16-13
Nov. 21	at Kansas City	19-17
Nov. 25	at Detroit (Thanks.)	10-6
Dec. 5	GREEN BAY	30-17
Dec. 12	at Tampa Bay	10-13
Dec. 18	DENVER (Sat.)	3-13
Dec. 26	DETROIT	14-20
Jan. 2	at L.A. Rams	6-20
W7 L9		**234-230**

DALLAS COWBOYS

Sept. 6	at Washington (Mon.)	16-35
Sept. 12	BUFFALO	10-13
Sept. 19	at Phoenix	17-10
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	GREEN BAY	30-14
Oct. 10	at Indianapolis	27-3
Oct. 17	SAN FRANCISCO	26-17
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	at Philadelphia	23-10
Nov. 7	N.Y. GIANTS	31-9
Nov. 14	PHOENIX	20-15
Nov. 21	at Atlanta	14-27
Nov. 25	MIAMI (Thanks.)	14-16
Dec. 6	PHILADELPHIA (Mon.)	23-17
Dec. 12	at Minnesota	37-20
Dec. 18	at N.Y. Jets (Sat.)	28-7
Dec. 26	WASHINGTON	38-3
Jan. 2	at N.Y. Giants*	16-13
W12 L4		**376-229**

DETROIT LIONS

Sept. 5	ATLANTA	30-13
Sept. 12	at New England*	19-16
Sept. 19	at New Orleans	3-14
Sept. 26	PHOENIX	26-20
Oct. 3	at Tampa Bay	10-27
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	SEATTLE	30-10
Oct. 24	at L.A. Rams	16-13
Oct. 31	at Minnesota	30-27
Nov. 7	TAMPA BAY	23-0
Nov. 14	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 21	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	17-26
Nov. 25	CHICAGO (Thanks.)	6-10
Dec. 5	MINNESOTA	0-13
Dec. 12	at Phoenix	21-14
Dec. 19	SAN FRANCISCO	17-55
Dec. 26	at Chicago	20-14
Jan. 2	GREEN BAY	30-20
W10 L6		**298-292**

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Sept. 5	L.A. RAMS at Mil.	36-6
Sept. 12	PHILADELPHIA	17-20
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	at Minnesota	13-15
Oct. 3	at Dallas	14-36
Oct. 10	DENVER	30-27
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	at Tampa Bay	37-14
Oct. 31	CHICAGO	17-3
Nov. 8	at Kansas City (Mon.)	16-23
Nov. 14	at New Orleans	19-17
Nov. 21	DETROIT at Mil.	26-17
Nov. 28	TAMPA BAY	13-10
Dec. 5	at Chicago	17-30
Dec. 12	at San Diego	20-13
Dec. 19	MINNESOTA at Mil.	17-21
Dec. 26	L.A. RAIDERS	28-0
Jan. 2	at Detroit	20-30
W9 L7		**340-282**

LOS ANGELES RAMS

Sept. 5	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	6-36
Sept. 12	PITTSBURGH	27-0
Sept. 19	at N.Y. Giants	10-20
Sept. 26	at Houston	28-13
Oct. 3	NEW ORLEANS	6-37
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 14	at Atlanta (Thur.)	24-30
Oct. 24	DETROIT	13-16
Oct. 31	at San Francisco	17-40
Nov. 7	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 14	ATLANTA	0-13
Nov. 21	WASHINGTON	10-6
Nov. 28	SAN FRANCISCO	10-35
Dec. 5	at Phoenix	10-38
Dec. 12	at New Orleans	23-20
Dec. 19	at Cincinnati	3-15
Dec. 26	CLEVELAND	14-42
Jan. 2	CHICAGO	20-6
W5 L11		**221-367**

MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Sept. 5	at L.A. Raiders	7-24
Sept. 12	CHICAGO	10-7
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	GREEN BAY	15-13
Oct. 3	at San Francisco	19-38
Oct. 10	TAMPA BAY	15-0
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 25	at Chicago (Mon.)	19-12
Oct. 31	DETROIT	27-30
Nov. 7	SAN DIEGO	17-30
Nov. 14	at Denver	26-23
Nov. 21	at Tampa Bay	10-23
Nov. 28	NEW ORLEANS	14-17
Dec. 5	at Detroit	13-0
Dec. 12	DALLAS	20-37
Dec. 19	vs. Green Bay at Mil.	21-17
Dec. 26	KANSAS CITY	30-10
Dec. 31	at Washington (Fri.)	14-9
W9 L7		**277-290**

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

Sept. 5	HOUSTON	33-21
Sept. 12	at Atlanta	34-31
Sept. 19	DETROIT	14-3
Sept. 26	SAN FRANCISCO	16-13
Oct. 3	at L.A. Rams	37-6
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	at Pittsburgh	14-37
Oct. 24	ATLANTA	15-26
Oct. 31	at Phoenix	20-17
Nov. 7	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 14	GREEN BAY	17-19
Nov. 22	at San Francisco (Mon.)	7-42
Nov. 28	at Minnesota	17-14
Dec. 5	at Cleveland	13-17
Dec. 12	L.A. RAMS	20-23
Dec. 20	N.Y. GIANTS (Mon.)	14-24
Dec. 26	at Philadelphia	26-37
Jan. 2	CINCINNATI	20-13
W8 L8		**317-343**

NEW YORK GIANTS

Sept. 5	at Chicago	26-20
Sept. 12	TAMPA BAY	23-7
Sept. 19	L.A. RAMS	20-10
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	at Buffalo	14-17
Oct. 10	at Washington	41-7
Oct. 17	PHILADELPHIA	21-10
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	N.Y. JETS	6-10
Nov. 7	at Dallas	9-31
Nov. 14	WASHINGTON	20-6
Nov. 21	at Philadelphia	7-3
Nov. 28	PHOENIX	19-17
Dec. 5	at Miami	19-14
Dec. 12	INDIANAPOLIS	20-6
Dec. 20	at New Orleans (Mon.)	24-14
Dec. 26	at Phoenix	6-17
Jan. 2	DALLAS*	13-16
W11 L5		**288-205**

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Sept. 5	PHOENIX	23-17
Sept. 12	at Green Bay	20-17
Sept. 19	WASHINGTON	34-31
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 3	at N.Y. Jets	35-30
Oct. 10	CHICAGO	6-17
Oct. 17	at N.Y. Giants	10-21
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 31	DALLAS	10-23
Nov. 7	at Phoenix	3-16
Nov. 14	MIAMI	14-19
Nov. 21	N.Y. GIANTS	3-7
Nov. 28	at Washington	17-14
Dec. 6	at Dallas (Mon.)	17-23
Dec. 12	BUFFALO	7-10
Dec. 19	at Indianapolis	20-10
Dec. 26	NEW ORLEANS	37-26
Jan. 3	at San Francisco* (Mon.)	37-31
W8 L8		**293-315**

PHOENIX CARDINALS

Sept. 5	at Philadelphia	17-23
Sept. 12	at Washington	17-10
Sept. 19	DALLAS	10-17
Sept. 26	at Detroit	20-26
Oct. 3	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 10	NEW ENGLAND	21-23
Oct. 17	WASHINGTON	36-6
Oct. 24	at San Francisco	14-28
Oct. 31	NEW ORLEANS	17-20
Nov. 7	PHILADELPHIA	16-3
Nov. 14	at Dallas	15-20
Nov. 21	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 28	at N.Y. Giants	17-19
Dec. 5	L.A. RAMS	38-10
Dec. 12	DETROIT	14-21
Dec. 19	at Seattle*	30-27
Dec. 26	N.Y. GIANTS	17-6
Jan. 2	at Atlanta	27-10
W7 L9		**326-269**

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Sept. 5	at Pittsburgh	24-13
Sept. 13	at Cleveland (Mon.)	13-23
Sept. 19	ATLANTA	37-30
Sept. 26	at New Orleans	13-16
Oct. 3	MINNESOTA	38-19
Oct. 10	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 17	at Dallas	17-26
Oct. 24	PHOENIX	28-14
Oct. 31	L.A. RAMS	40-17
Nov. 7	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 14	at Tampa Bay	45-21
Nov. 22	NEW ORLEANS (Mon.)	42-7
Nov. 28	at L.A. Rams	35-10
Dec. 5	CINCINNATI	21-8
Dec. 11	at Atlanta (Sat.)	24-27
Dec. 19	at Detroit	55-17
Dec. 25	HOUSTON (Sat.)	7-10
Jan. 3	PHILADELPHIA* (Mon.)	34-37
W10 L6		**473-295**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Sept. 5	KANSAS CITY	3-27
Sept. 12	at N.Y. Giants	7-23
Sept. 19	OPEN DATE	
Sept. 26	at Chicago	17-47
Oct. 3	DETROIT	27-10
Oct. 10	at Minnesota	0-15
Oct. 17	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 24	GREEN BAY	14-37
Oct. 31	at Atlanta	31-24
Nov. 7	at Detroit	0-23
Nov. 14	SAN FRANCISCO	21-45
Nov. 21	MINNESOTA	23-10
Nov. 28	at Green Bay	10-13
Dec. 5	WASHINGTON	17-23
Dec. 12	CHICAGO	13-10
Dec. 19	at L.A. Raiders	20-27
Dec. 26	at Denver	17-10
Jan. 2	SAN DIEGO	17-32
W5 L11		**237-376**

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Sept. 6	DALLAS (Mon.)	35-16
Sept. 12	PHOENIX	10-17
Sept. 19	at Philadelphia	31-34
Sept. 26	OPEN DATE	
Oct. 4	at Miami (Mon.)	10-17
Oct. 10	N.Y. GIANTS	7-41
Oct. 17	at Phoenix	6-36
Oct. 24	OPEN DATE	
Nov. 1	at Buffalo (Mon.)	10-24
Nov. 7	INDIANAPOLIS	30-24
Nov. 14	at N.Y. Giants	6-20
Nov. 21	at L.A. Rams	6-10
Nov. 28	PHILADELPHIA	14-17
Dec. 5	at Tampa Bay	23-17
Dec. 11	N.Y. JETS (Sat.)	0-3
Dec. 19	ATLANTA	30-17
Dec. 26	at Dallas	3-38
Dec. 31	MINNESOTA (Fri.)	9-14
W4 L12		**230-345**

1993 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Eastern Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Dallas	12	4	0	.750	376	229
New York Giants	11	5	0	.688	288	205
Philadelphia	8	8	0	.500	293	315
Phoenix	7	9	0	.438	326	269
Washington	4	12	0	.250	230	345
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
Detroit	10	6	0	.625	298	292
Minnesota	9	7	0	.563	277	290
Green Bay	9	7	0	.563	340	282
Chicago	7	9	0	.438	234	230
Tampa Bay	5	11	0	.313	237	376
Western Division	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**Pts.**	**OP**
San Francisco	10	6	0	.625	473	295
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	317	343
Atlanta	6	10	0	.375	316	385
Los Angeles Rams	5	11	0	.313	221	367

Minnesota finished ahead of Green Bay based on head-to-head sweep.

*Overtime

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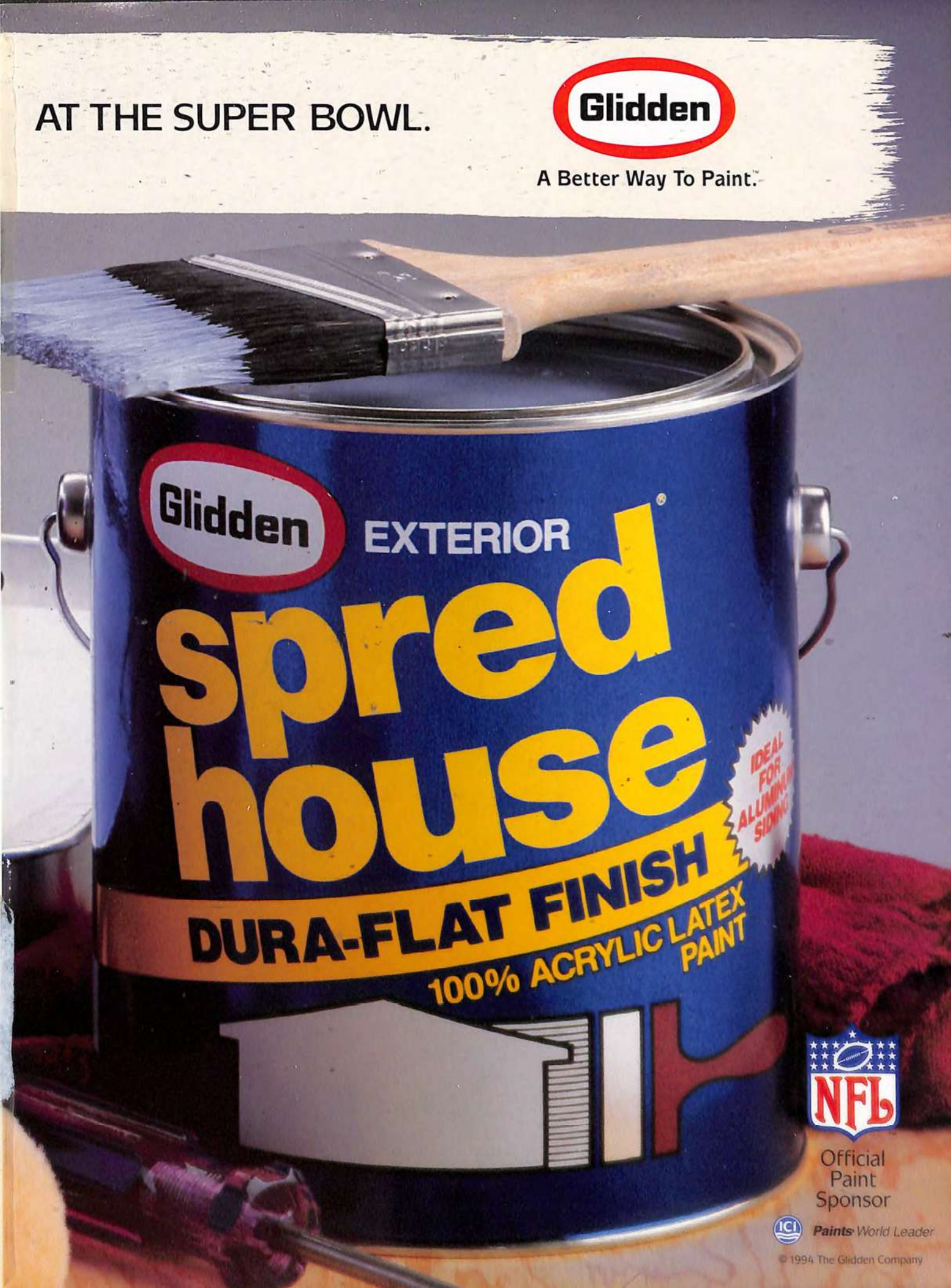
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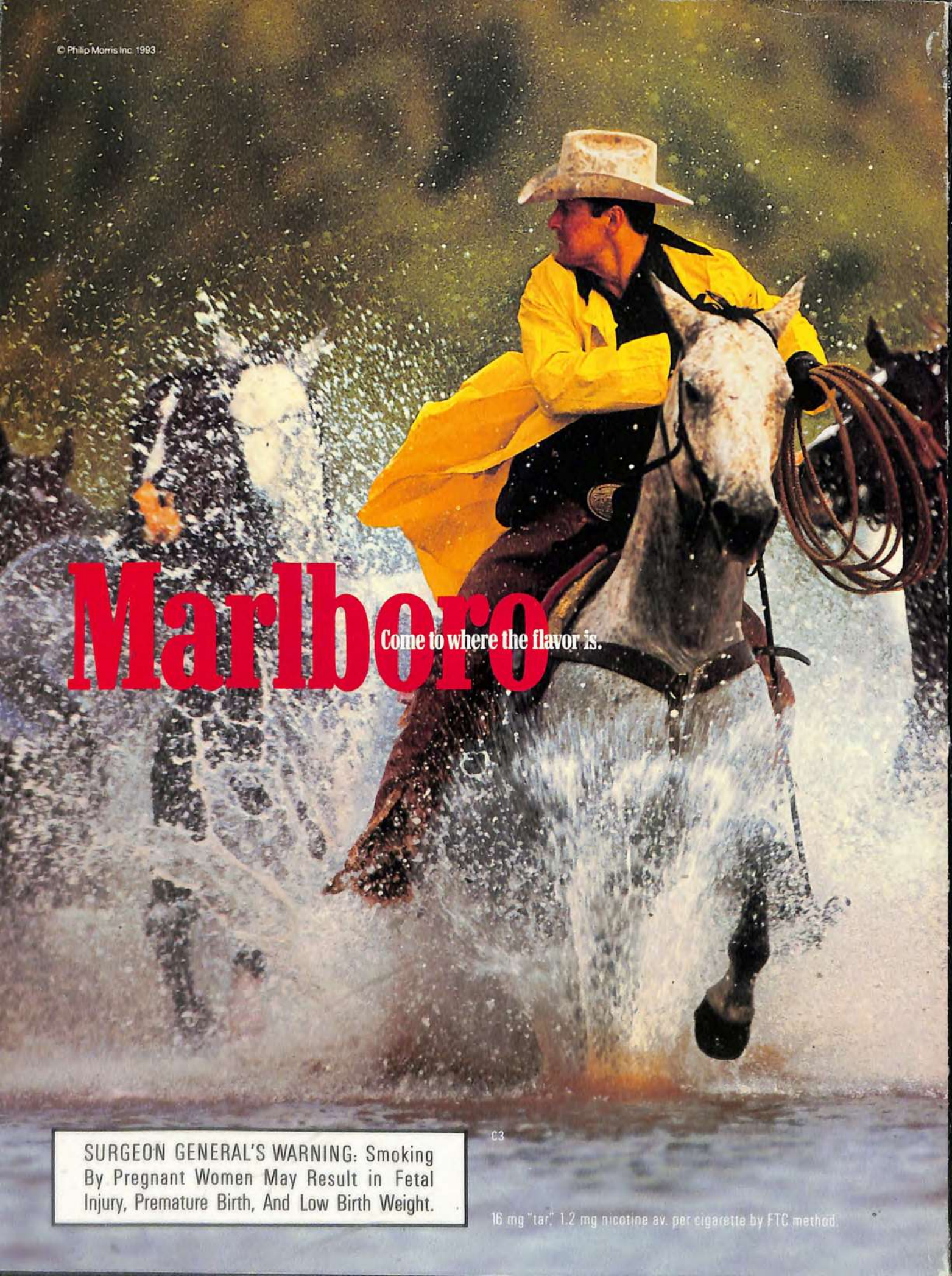

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